

Organization  
Report

*“Thank you to IHP. It made a huge contribution to my work with earthquake survivors – especially the fact that a) they were UK brands which I was familiar with and b) the carefully chosen selection of drugs all applicable for a primary care doctor.”*

**Diane L. Kelsall, MD, MEd, CCFP, FCFP**, Medical Advisor

**Anthony Dunnett CBE**, President

International Health Partners

E-mail: [dianekelsall@msn.com](mailto:dianekelsall@msn.com)

IHP Website: [www.ihpuk.org](http://www.ihpuk.org)

## International Health Partners: Placing Medical Donations Into The Hands Of Those in Need

International Health Partners (IHP) was formed in the United Kingdom (UK) as a ‘bridge’ to manage the interface between industry, non governmental organizations (NGOs), the medical community and Government. IHP makes it possible for companies to safely donate highly regulated medical products to NGOs, who then use the medications where they are most needed. The availability of donated medications to NGOs frees their budgets to extend their activities. IHP undertakes a range of functions: sourcing the medicines from the industry; quality control (checking lot numbers and dating); preparation, packaging and shipment; in country NGO partnership working and post-delivery audit.

Until IHP was established in November 2004, there was no intermediary in the UK enabling and handling donations of medical supplies for the UK industry. IHP’s programs and processes build on the models that have operated successfully in North America for many years. For example, Health Partners International of Canada has shipped over £95 million (wholesale value) in donated medicines, vaccines, medical supplies and devices since 1990.

International Health Partners (UK) Limited (IHP) is a UK charity, responsible to five different stakeholder groups:

- 1) The UK pharmaceutical and medical supplies industries (represented by the six industry associations - Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI), Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), British Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers (BAPW), British Generic Manufacturers Association (BGMA), European Medical Industry Group (EMIG), Proprietary Association of Great Britain (PAGB);
- 2) Government (interfacing with DFID, Ministry of Health, HM Treasury, DTI, and No10/ODPM); the medical community (BMA, the Royal Colleges and the ASGBI);
- 3) NGOs (DEC, World Health Organization (WHO), Red Cross, UNAIDS, many other UK charities – e.g. Islamic Relief, World Jewish Relief, Merlin, Medical Missionary News ) and
- 4) Interested individuals
- 5) Companies, such as DHL Excel Logistics, Virgin Atlantic, British Airways and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

IHP was formally launched by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury with the direct support of the United Kingdom Prime Minister and the other Party Leaders. The IHP Board of Trustees and Members incorporates senior national figures from all five of its stakeholder groups, including the past Chief Nursing Officer, leaders of global charities and from the fields of business and medicine. The five associations representing the pharmaceutical and medical supplies industries have fully endorsed IHP. The British Medical Association, many Royal Colleges and the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland are fully supportive.

IHP has also garnered the support of The Prince of Wales, who was announced as the Royal Patron on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2005. A small Board of Patrons representing all the major world faiths is being appointed. IHP has also appointed three senior technical advisors, leaders in their fields, from the World Health Organization, International Business Leaders Forum and the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry).

### ***The Tsunami brought an early start***

IHP was not due to be fully operational until Easter 2005. However, the Tsunami brought a request from the industry to accelerate its timetable. In the first week of January, the five industry associations supporting the breadth of the UK pharmaceutical, healthcare and medical supplies industries asked International Health Partners to coordinate an organised response to the Tsunami Earthquake Disaster. While a few of the largest multinational companies have concentrated on large-scale global corporate responses, the staff and management of many UK-based companies or UK subsidiaries do not have the connections or ability to safely donate the products they produce. The UK is one of the largest exporting nations of pharmaceuticals in the world (Source :ABPI statistics) and is the principal location for pharmaceutical regional and global head offices in Europe.

### ***How we have been working in disaster response***

Since the Tsunami and South Asian earthquake disasters, IHP has established a day-to-day working relationship with DFID, the WHO (in Geneva and in the field) and the Ministries of Health in countries affected by disaster. IHP is aware of, and is responding to, these nations' present needs for medicines and medical supplies. The details of every offer of donated product from a company (e.g. specification, lot numbers and dating) are shared with the in-country WHO and MoH teams for their approval. Only when this approval is received does IHP accept the offer from the company and arrange for shipment to the local disaster team. IHP works with a local medical NGO to partner with the WHO and MoH and provide a secondary audit mechanism to ensure the donated products reach those for whom they were intended.

### ***A partnership effort***

During the first 18 months since IHP's launch, over 250 pallets of first quality, in-date, donated medicines and medical supplies have been sent to projects around the world on behalf of the UK healthcare industry, the UK Government and UK doctors and NGOs. The administration, handling and shipping costs have been met with contributions from all of our partners.

**Key Facts:**

- Over 50 Companies have donated product and services to IHP.
- Afghanistan; Angola; Bangladesh; Bulgaria; Cambodia; Chad; Cuba; Democratic Republic of Congo; East Timor; Gaza & Bethlehem; Maldives; Malawi; Nigeria; Pakistan; Philippines; Romania; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Ukraine and Zambia.
- Total product donations have exceeded £12m.
- IHP fully endorses the WHO's Guidelines for Drug Donations.

**IHP's support for Disasters:**

- Following the tsunami, IHP coordinated product donations of essential medicines and supplies from 15 companies totalling £3.5m. These were shipped to the WHO and Ministry of Health emergency teams in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
- Donations of medical supplies totalling £75k were sent to the Maldives under a programme supervised by the WHO and Ministry of Health there.
- Donated medicines were sent to the flood victims in Eastern Europe through the Red Cross and World Jewish Relief.
- For the South Asian earthquake, IHP coordinated vaccines, medicines and Doctors Travel Packs donated by 30 companies with a total value of £3.0m, working principally with the WHO, DFID and Islamic Relief. Medicines have also been provided to Cafod/Charitas; Humanity First; Merlin; MSF; Muslim Hands; Muslim Relief; Red Cross/Red Crescent; Response International
- Following outbreaks of meningitis in Kashmir, IHP sent a shipment of £5m of meningitis vaccine donated by Baxter and was sent to Kashmir in March 2006 to provide protection for earthquake victims.

**Other Projects and Programs:**

- IHP's first shipment was £100k of vitamins to the WHO and Ministry of Health in Afghanistan in conjunction with IHP's Canadian sister organization.
- The Doctor's Travel Pack Programme was launched in October 2005 – by June 2006, 49 of the first pilot programme of 50 packs had been sent abroad with UK Doctors.
- In February and April 2006, IHP sent £1m in medicines to treat the poor in Cuba, a country with an excellent medical system, but with few medicines to distribute.

The shipments pulled together by International Health Partners reflect the first time that a coordinated program of donated medical supplies has been organised in the UK. The shipments represent a real partnership venture between governments, industry, NGOs and the international relief teams on the ground. By sourcing the requested medicines through targeted donations (rather than purchasing them), our partners have been able to obtain over £20 of medicines and supplies for every £1 donated to IHP.

Close relationships are being established with the UK NGOs specifically involved in supporting medical projects and activities in the developing world – including: Cafod/Charitas; Humanity First, Islamic Relief; Merlin; MMN; Red Cross/Red Crescent; World Jewish Relief. These charities along with a number of charitable foundations, businesses and DFID have provided the majority of IHP's operating and ongoing funding requirements. Freight forwarding agents, shipping insurance agents and airlines (including:

Sri Lankan, PIA and Virgin Atlantic) have also provided deeply discounted rates and/or donated their services. DHL Exel Healthcare Logistics, the global leader in healthcare logistics is providing IHP with warehousing free of charge to IHP as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility commitment. DHL has provided free shipment on a number of occasions.

### ***The Doctor's Travel Pack (DTP)***

The Doctor's Travel Pack (DTP) from International Health Partners contains enough medicines and supplies to treat up to one thousand children and adults. The DTP was designed in consultation with doctors who have overseas medical experience and in cooperation with the British Medical Association's International Committee.

Valued at more than £2800 (UK wholesale value), the packs are especially useful for health professionals providing primary healthcare in outlying clinics and hospitals. They are also ideal for use in emergency situations when disaster hits.

The medicines and supplies are packed into two boxes weighing around 30 kg. The boxes are hand cartable. While the availability of specific products may vary slightly, IHP aims to provide medicines in each of the following categories:

- Analgesics
- Antibiotics
- Antiemetics
- Antifungals
- Antihistamines
- Antimalarial
- Antiparasitics
- Anti-ulcer medication
- Eye/ear drops & ointments
- Oral rehydration salts
- Topical creams
- Vitamins



Since the launch of the travel pack program in September 2005, almost 50 packs have been taken to 13 countries by UK doctors. Here are some comments from UK doctors:

***"TPs make a valuable contribution to any primary health care facility. Would therefore absolutely use a DTP on subsequent trips."***

***"The supply of drugs to Peru can be haphazard. Without the DTP we would have been very restricted in both the quality and quantity of medication that we could have provided."***

***"I would definitely use a pack again. I have seen firsthand the joy and satisfaction it brings to professionals who are then able to provide treatment for those in need, and who would otherwise go without..."***

UK pharmaceutical and healthcare companies donate the contents of the travel pack to IHP. IHP requests a contribution of £250 per pack from the recipient doctor

and seeks to identify a sponsor who will contribute £120 to help cover the remainder of the costs of sourcing, processing, assembling and shipping the pack.

### *Developing a sustainable healthcare infrastructure*

The ultimate goal of development work is to establish an effective and sustainable economy and healthcare infrastructure in nations of the developing world. However, it is clear that for many developing countries, achieving this goal is far in the future. In the meantime, IHP will continue to work with its stakeholders to provide donated medicines and medical supplies to those in need around the world.

More information on the work of IHP can be found on the website ([www.ihpuk.org](http://www.ihpuk.org)). Forms can be downloaded for requesting a Doctor's Travel Pack or medicines/medical supplies for a specific relief program. It should be noted that only UK-registered charities or health professionals may apply. To donate medicines/ medical supplies, a product donation form (available on the website) must be completed and sent to IHP for approval *before* shipping any product.

Contact IHP by phone at 01892 784118, e-mail at [information@ihpuk.org](mailto:information@ihpuk.org), or by mail at:

International Health Partners  
The Fold  
Beech Hill, Wadhurst  
East Sussex, TN5 6JR