

## NEWSLETTER #30 – October 2005

### PHARMACIENS SANS FRONTIERES COMITE INTERNATIONAL

#### **The “Tsunami” of inappropriate drug donations to Indonesia at the European Workshop on Emergency Aid:**

Dr. Nasirah Bahaudin, **Executive Assistant to the Minister of Health of Indonesia** and Dr. Muhamad Taufik Sugianto, **representing the Head of the Public Supply Department of the Ministry of Health of Indonesia**, were present at the European workshop on how to organise European emergency aid run by Tulipe/LEEM on 24 October and where PSFCI presented the initial results of the survey of inappropriate drug donations in Banda Aceh.

140 donors were identified through the survey, including 53 national organisations and 48 international organisations from 39 countries. 4,000 tonnes of medicines for less than 2 million people. Brand name drugs (unknown to the Indonesian health staff) in more than 16 foreign languages.

Nearly **60% of the drugs were not on the National List of Essential Drugs, 10% had expired** before they reached the country and about **30% were due to expire in less than six months or had missing expiry dates.**

Some (appropriate) drugs arrived in such numbers that the province has drug stocks for 6-8 years, which represents **direct competition for the pharmaceutical industry in the country.**

It will take many years to recover all the inappropriate drugs scattered throughout the province. In hospitals, rooms that are normally reserved for patients were used to store inappropriate drugs.

**Millions of euros will be spent to destroy these drugs.**

**1,150 cubic metres (345 tonnes) have been identified to be destroyed in October 2005 for an estimated amount of EUR 1,400,000.**

**In February 2005, 75 cubic metres were destroyed.**

Public health problems mean economic problems! There is increasing pressure to develop a **consensus-building strategy** to avoid these recurrent problems of massive donations of inappropriate drugs in emergency situations.

It is the duty of the pharmacy profession as a whole to assume responsibility for finding a solution to this challenge: **ensuring a quality pharmaceutical aid that respects the countries that receive it.**

The program to support the management of drug donations is extended until January 2006. A request for extension until June 2006 is being considered.

The study and film will be edited in French and English, and will be widely distributed throughout the world to convince governments and organisations of the urgency of adopting good practices in humanitarian action.

*PS:* According to PSF Germany, which is present in Pakistan, it looks like the same thing has happened again and the situation is very worrying.

## EVENTS

#### **Access to Essential Medicines as a human right**

The right to health is a human right recognised in many international instruments. Read the article by Hans Hogerzeil, WHO Department of Essential Drugs and Medicines Policy <http://mednet2.who.int/edmonitor/33/mon33.html>

**Thank you to ANEP** (pharmacy students association) for organising an exhibition retracing PSF's 20 years of work at the University of Nantes (France) and for making a major donation to PSF.

#### **International Biology days 2005 – 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

The International Biology Days will be celebrating their 50th anniversary at the CNIT Convention Centre in Paris, on November 3 to 5, 2005

For information or to register, visit: [www.sdbio.fr/jib](http://www.sdbio.fr/jib) - [sdb@sdbio.fr](mailto:sdb@sdbio.fr). Come and see us at our stand!

On 12 November, at the **1st 'Forum des Pharmaciens'** held in Toulouse (France), Pharmaciens Sans Frontières Comité International will present images on the issue of managing inappropriate drug donations in Indonesia in the aftermath of the tsunami that devastated the Province of Banda Aceh.

The '**Collectif Europe et Médicament**' launches a campaign to prescribe drugs using International Non-proprietary Names - INN (the scientific name of the medicinal product) so that medical doctors, pharmacists and patients have a common language. Prescription in INN would prevent adverse effects, drug interactions and overdose.

## MISSIONS

### **Burkina-Faso**

A mid-term evaluation was carried out by two specialists to audit the pharmaceutical and biological components of the 2004/2007 program which covers the health districts of Gourcy, Ouahigouya, Séguénéga, Titao and Yako, ie 1,256,500 inhabitants.

The purpose of mid-term evaluations is to critique the progress of the program, to monitor its impact, influence and partner satisfaction, to identify possible gaps, and possibly to redirect activities based on the recommendations of the evaluators.

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

European institutional partners met to plan the country's development strategy in the coming years. Donors for emergency assistance will gradually be replaced by donors for long-term development assistance, and the number of regional essential drug procurement centres is expected to increase to cover the whole country.

### **Chad**

The 2004/2007 program is still seeking funding. PSF 37 has become involved and contributes financial support to the building of 3 health centres.

### **Haiti**

The emergency program ended on 15 September. PSFCI provides funding for the transition period to development assistance.

### **Vacancies:**

A pharmacist for Indonesia, a pharmacist and a nurse/midwife for Chad, a pharmacist for Southern Sudan, a head of mission + a medical coordinator + a logistics coordinator for Eastern Kasai (Dem. Rep. of Congo).

### **PSFCI's Greeting Cards Operation**

If you own or know a company that would like to send its best wishes on PSF greeting cards, please contact Jean-Marie Prouvost: [jm.prouvost@psf-ci.org](mailto:jm.prouvost@psf-ci.org)

Today, more than ever before, we need funds to help developing countries to create reliable, regulated and transparent supply channels. Contributing to their development is contributing to a more just and therefore safer world; it is contributing to our future in a more balanced and inclusive world. For more information on partnership opportunities with PSFCI, contact Jean-Marie Prouvost.

*In compliance with the French data protection act in the law of 6 January 1978 (CNIL), you have the right to access and correct information about yourself. You can exercise this right by writing to PSF-CI Service informatique 4 Voie Militaire des Gravanches 63100- Clermont-Ferrand (France)*

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