



## **IOM-Swedish Medical Team Programme marks its conclusion in Kosovo by donating specialized medical and bio-medical equipment to the University Clinical Centre in Prishtinë/Priština**

.Prishtinë/Priština 21, April, 2008. As the implementing organization of the Swedish Medical Team (SMT) Programme in Kosovo, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), facilitated a donation of specialized medical and bio-medical equipment to the University Clinical Centre in Kosovo (UCCK). This humanitarian contribution and the SMT Programme were made possible through financial support from the Swedish Government. The donation, which consisted of microsurgical ophthalmologic instruments and biomedical equipment, was worth over 71,000 Euro. The new equipment was presented by the SMT Programme Manager, Dr Ake Bjorn. Accepting the medical instruments on behalf of the UCCK, the Director of the Ophthalmology Clinic, Mr. Naser Saliu, thanked IOM-SMT for the continuous support given over the last eight years, which has contributed to strengthening the health care system in Kosovo.

This Programme, which has been in continuous implementation in Kosovo since 2000, concluded the majority of its activities at the end of March 2008. During the Programme's implementation, different equipment have been donated to the UCCK such as: an autoclave, anesthesia machine, infusion pumps, microscopes, and all of the equipment needed for sharpening surgical instruments, as well as the complete equipment needed for an immuno-histochemical laboratory, including spare parts, and related consumable items.

In 1995, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in partnership with the Swedish Migration Board and the Linköping University Hospital, initiated the Swedish Medical Programme (SMP) in order to provide medical care for persons injured in the 1992-95 war and to meet the need for medical and surgical services not available in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) as a result of the war. Based on its success in BiH, the programme was expanded to include Kosovo in 2000, in light of the fact that the conflict in Kosovo significantly damaged the existing pre-war health care infrastructure.

The main aim of the Swedish Medical Team Programme in Kosovo was to evacuate individual patients who cannot be treated locally due to the lack of suitable diagnostic possibilities, complex post-operative intensive care, and specific highly specialized equipment. Together with local colleagues, the Swedish doctors performed needs assessment screenings to evaluate patients requiring complex operations and identify those requiring treatment through the Programme.

As a part of its wide-ranging strategy, the Programme strived to diminish the longer-term need to refer patients for treatment abroad by building local capacity, establishing greater professional cooperation within the region and between Swedish and local specialists, and introducing new medical techniques and procedures through training and donations of equipment. As a result of the 165 visits of the Swedish Medical Teams

in Prishtinë/Priština, 40 local medical specialists were trained abroad, as well as numerous other doctors who received on-the-job training locally.

Since the inception of the Programme in 2000, a total of 86 patients from Kosovo were evacuated to Sweden or BiH for medical treatment and surgery; the majority of these beneficiaries were children. The IOM SMT Programme concentrated on the following medical fields of intervention: pediatric cardiology, orthopedics plastic and hand reconstructive surgery, ophthalmology, oncology, and gynaeco–oncology physiotherapy/rehabilitation. In total, over one thousand Kosovars were examined and treated, and 301 surgeries performed by the Swedish medical teams.

*For further information, contact:*  
*IOM Kosovo Public Information Office,*  
*Tel +381(0)38 24 90 42 and+377(0)44 134 826*  
*Email: [info@iom.ipko.org](mailto:info@iom.ipko.org).*  
*Website: [www.iomkosovo.org](http://www.iomkosovo.org)*