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Dominican Republic

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Global Links' 16<sup>th</sup> shipment of the year went to the Dominican Republic and will be our second shipment there this year. This container will benefit two small community hospitals, Hospital Palenque and Hospital Nizao, each with about 26 beds. They serve populations of 17,000 and 45,000+, respectively.

Hospital Palenque has been the primary recipient of Global Links donations for two years now under our ongoing contract with DOMICEM. Because of its small size, Global Links has had a strong impact there – entirely outfitting the patient wards, providing an anesthesia machine which enabled them to start doing surgeries, and sending desks and chairs that are greatly appreciated by hospital personnel. On a recent visit, Global Links staff spotted a baby delivered by C-section lying in a bassinet from Global Links, and a boy with acute appendicitis lying on a Global Links donated bed while he waited for the OR to be available. (The hospital staff reported later that the boy's surgery went well.) These surgeries may not have been possible without Global Links help.

To expand the impact of Global Links donations, the director of Hospital Palenque suggested that the donations should reach out to some of the neighboring hospitals in her area, such as Nizao. Many patients come from the Nizao area to Palenque in order to receive better care. As the needs become fewer in Palenque, we hope to reach out more and more to neighboring institutions such as Nizao. This container shipment contained desks, chairs, filing cabinets, gurneys and a few bassinets as well as some overbed tables and bedside stands for Hospital Nizao.

Palenque will also receive desks and chairs, filing cabinets, gurneys, and a nice set of 28 matching waiting room chairs. They will also receive a microscope for their laboratory and 2 computers for their pharmacy and for record keeping.

This shipment included 177 Global Links packed boxes and 86 boxes of pharmaceuticals as well, making it a very valuable shipment. In the next DOMICEM sponsored shipment, two other health institutions close to Palenque will receive Global Links materials. We are looking forward to expanding our reach in the San Cristobal area.