

03.07.2012

## **Press Release**

## The free-of-charge vaccination program for children continues

MITERA Children's Hospital, in affiliation with the NGO Doctors of the World-Greece Medical Clinic in Perama, is continuing its free-of-charge vaccination program for children.

Due to the shortage of vaccines and the immediate need for vaccination, representatives from MITERA Children's Hospital, accompanied by one of the hospital's ambulances, delivered the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment of vaccines on Tuesday July 3. The installment included 5 different types of vaccines (240 vaccines in total), covering the following diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, haemophilus influenza, measles, rubella, parotitis, chickenpox, and hepatitis A & B.

The free-of-charge vaccination program for the children visiting the Doctors of the World Medical Clinic in Perama was launched in December 2011 with the aim of addressing the needs of children who – due to the adverse economic conditions – have lost one of their fundamental rights: the access to healthcare and pharmaceutical care. Some 700 vaccines have already been delivered to the Perama Medical Clinic as part of the program.

Mr Nikitas Kanakis, Chairman of the Doctors of the World-Greece Board, noted, "The solidarity race that commenced in Perama is continuing, with the valuable contribution of HYGEIA Group. Underprivileged children who were unfortunate enough not to be insured and were "punished" for this by being deprived of their right to prevention now have access to basic immunization. In difficult times like these, with the State standing helpless as the fundamental rights of children are being infringed, initiatives similar to this are becoming even more significant. The generous support offered by HYGEIA Group assists us in continuing our efforts."

On her part, HYGEIA Group's CEO, Ms. Areti Souvatzoglou, stated, "We could not but continue our social contribution for the benefit of the children in need, as prevention is a thousand times better than the cure. For us at MITERA Children's Hospital, children are the center of our universe. Besides, in the almost 10 years it has been operating, MITERA Children's Hospital, the most comprehensive tertiary children's healthcare provider in Greece, has been standing by children and their families with respect and a sense of responsibility, fully addressing all their needs".