



Mission Bambini
Helping children everyday

Children's Heart' Program

February 2015

The ‘Children’s Heart’ Program

- **OBJECTIVE**
To save children with serious heart defects, born in poor countries, without access to treatment . An estimated 1 million children are born with grave heart conditions every year. 80% of these are born in developing countries.
- **LAUNCH YEAR**
2006
- **RESULTS ACHIEVED**
*1,373 children operated on and saved
10,732 children seen and advised*
- **RESOURCES COMMITTED 31/12/2014**
€1.61 million





The Problem

What is the Problem?

Every year, an estimated **1 million children are born with serious heart defects**. In developed countries, congenital heart disease is easily diagnosed (even prenatally) and successfully treated, with pediatric cardiac surgery if necessary. However, developing countries are often **lacking prepared medical staff and adequate health facilities**. Years can go by just to obtain a correct diagnosis.

Significant Data

- **80%** of children with heart conditions are born in countries where possibilities for treatment are limited.
- **50%** of children born with heart conditions are at a greater risk of death if they are not treated in the first years of their life; others face serious development problems.



In many countries, children are at risk of death because they cannot access treatment



The Strategy

The Three-Steps Strategy

With our 'Children's Heart' Project, Mission Bambini Foundation's goal is **to save children with serious heart conditions born in poorer countries.** This goal is implemented through:

- 1. Missions Abroad:** carried out by Italian volunteer doctors;
- 2. Journeys of Hope:** the child undergoes the surgery in Italy, when their home country is lacking both doctors and adequate hospitals;
- 3. Helping the poorest families:** in countries with sufficient doctors and hospitals, we help to lessen the burden of surgery costs and buy equipment to improve facilities.



Our long term objective is to make poorer countries self-sufficient in treating heart disease.



Results (2006-2014)

- **1,373 children saved by pediatric cardiac surgery:**
 - **374** through missions abroad
 - **169** in Italy
 - **830** directly by local doctors in local hospitals.
- **10,732 children seen and diagnosed**
- **€1.61 million committed, on average:**
 - **€1,173** for a child's surgery
 - **€18** for a child to be seen and diagnosed for heart disease.



In the last nine years, we have saved the lives of 1,373 children born with serious heart defects

Goal for 2015: to save the lives of 267 children

Our aim for 2015 is to save the lives of another 267 children suffering from severe heart conditions:



63 through missions abroad (in 6 countries)



16 in Italy (from 2 countries)





188 abroad by local medical teams in local hospitals (in 4 countries)



2015 Budget and Action



MODE OF ACTION	COUNTRIES INVOLVED	PREDICTED ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES	COSTS
Missions Abroad	Burma Cambodia Eritrea Somalia Uganda Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carrying out 10 missions in 6 countries, operating on 63 children; - Increasing and improving local training; - Visiting more than 2,100 children through a prevention mission in Eritrea. 	€ 135,000
 Journeys of Hope to Italy	Somalia Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performing surgery on 16 children from two countries, in Italy. 	€ 29,000
 Supporting hospitals and families on site	Cambodia Kenya Romania Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operating on 188 children and eliminating costs for their families; - Expanding the intensive care unit of the Angkor Hospital for Children in Cambodia 	€ 323,000
COORDINATION AND MONITORING COSTS			€ 50,000
TOTAL COSTS			€ 537,000

‘Children’s Heart’ Project

MISSIONS ABROAD

How We Intervene

Missions Abroad

- Our missions have **two different aims**:
 - to operate on the most complex and urgent cases;
 - to train local medical staff during surgery or with specific training sessions.
- The doctors who have participated in these missions are **all volunteers**.
 - A team is composed of a heart surgeon, a cardiologist, an anesthetist, a perfusionist and one or more nurses for intensive care .
- Missions last for **1 week**, allowing the medical staff to operate on 8 to 10 children and visit about 100 more. These missions are repeated at various times in the same facilities.



*Pediatric cardiac surgery is hugely complex:
operations can last up to 6 hours*

Mission Bambini's Role

Missions Abroad

The Foundation is responsible for:

- **verifying the feasibility** of missions in new countries;
- **organizing** missions and their logistics by coordinating the availability of medical staff with the needs of local hospitals;
- **reporting** outcomes and results
- **covering costs of:**
 - the travel, accomodation and stay of the medical team
 - the purchase of medical equipment, which must be brought to the country from Italy (e.g. heart valves, catheters, cannulas etc.)



*The volunteers are the real heroes
of our missions*

2015 Budget and Action

Missions Abroad

ACTION	COUNTRY	MONTH	COST	NO. OF CHILDREN OPERATED ON
Surgical Mission	Burma	January	€ 15.000	10
Prevention Mission	Eritrea	February	€ 10.000	/
Surgical Mission	Cambodia	May	€ 15.000	10
Prevention Mission	Eritrea	June	€ 10.000	/
Surgical Mission	Burma	September	€ 15.000	10
Surgical Mission	Uganda	August	€ 20.000	8
Surgical Mission	Uzbekistan	October	€ 10.000	5
Surgical Mission	Somalia	October	€ 15.000	10
Prevention Mission	Eritrea	October	€ 10.000	/
Surgical Mission	Cambodia	December	€ 15.000	10
TOTAL			€ 135.000	63



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JOURNEYS OF HOPE TO ITALY

How We Intervene

Journeys to Italy

- 'Journeys of Hope' to Italy are required in cases where the child's home country is severely **lacking in medical facilities**, making it impossible to organize missions.
- These children are brought to Italy after **their case has been diagnosed and defined as urgent**. They are usually accompanied by their mother.
- The children remain in Italy for a period ranging from a **few weeks to 2 or 3 months**, including the surgery and pre and post-surgery phases.



Some countries lack adequate medical facilities, so children must be brought to Italy to undergo surgery

Mission Bambini's Role

Journeys to Italy

The Foundation is responsible for:

- **covering the costs of travel** for the child and their guardian.

3 or 4 children, along with their guardians, participate in one journey. They stay in rented apartments or with available families.

Operations in Italy are carried out in public hospitals. Their costs are covered by the (decreasing) **regional funds** for decentered cooperation. The average cost of one pediatric cardiac operation in Italy is €20,000.



Zimbabwe-born Elvis was the first child to undergo surgery in Italy. Now he is a top student.

2015 Budget and actions

Journeys to Italy

ACTION	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	HOSPITAL	COSTS	NO. OF CHILDREN TO BE OPERATED ON
<i>Journey of Hope</i>	Somalia	Turin, Ospedale Regina Margherita	€ 14.000	6
<i>Journey of Hope</i>	Zimbabwe	Bologna, Ospedale Sant' Orsola-Malpighi	€ 15.000	10
TOTAL			€ 29.000	16

‘Children ’s Heart ’ Project

**SUPPORT TO HOSPITALS
AND FAMILIES ON SITE**

How We Intervene

Support on Site

- In some countries, children with heart conditions could be diagnosed and treated by doctors in their own country, however:
 - **operations are too expensive**, making them unsustainable for families with a low or medium income;
 - **the medical facilities are not adequate** and there is a lack of staff.
- In these countries, the Foundation has decided to:
 - **cover surgery costs** for children coming from poorer families;
 - **help to improve and equip medical facilities**, where necessary.



Most families cannot afford to pay for expensive heart operations

Mission Bambini's Role

Support on Site

The Foundation deals with:

- **covering the costs of surgery** for children of poorer families, signposted by local hospitals;
- **covering the costs of upgrading medical facilities** or purchasing machines and medical equipment, upon request from local hospitals.

Our intervention plan also includes:

- **financing scholarships** for foreign medical students to receive training, in collaboration with the *International Heart School* in Bergamo;
- covering costs for **follow up treatment**, once the child has returned to their country of origin;
- offering other **support** to the childrens' families.



Helping local hospitals directly helps to save a huge number of lives

2015 Budget and Action

Support on Site

ACTION	COUNTRY	DETAILS	COST	No OF OPERATED CHILDREN
Support for families of children with heart conditions	Brazil		€ 5.000	/
Covering the costs of surgery for poor families	Cambodia		€ 100.000	150
Scholarships for heart surgeons	Cambodia		€ 10.000	20
Enlargement of intensive care department	Cambodia	Siem Reap, Angkor Hospital for Children	€ 150.000	/
Covering the costs of surgery for poor families	Kenya		€ 15.000	10
Covering the costs of surgery for poor families	Romania		€ 30.000	8
Follow-up treatment for children who have undergone surgery	Zimbabwe		€ 13.000	/
TOTAL			€ 323.000	188

How to Help

- with **€ 1,000** we can fund a ***Journey of Hope*** to Italy for one sick child;
- with **€1,800** we can visit and diagnose **100 children**;
- with **€ 7,000** we can cover the costs of **10 operations** carried out by local medical staff;
- with **€15,000** we can fund an **entire surgical mission** abroad.



Many children with heart disease need our help



THANK YOU!

Mission Bambini Foundation

www.missionbambini.org