

Life-saving medical care in Myanmar

Goals of health care support

- Provide health care for those who lack access.
- Bring hope for the futures of children.

Wachet Charity Hospital: Where Japan Heart began

Without a universal health care system in place, many sick people in Myanmar delay visiting a doctor because they cannot afford the high medical costs and are often precluded from receiving vital medical attention until it is too late.

In May 2004, Japan Heart began its work at Wachet Charity Hospital located in the Sagaing Region in central Myanmar, offering low-cost (free for children), safe health care services. Soon word spread across the country about Japan Heart's work, and the sick have increasingly sought care at Wachet Charity Hospital. Today, Japan Heart assists approximately 10,000 outpatients and performs as many as 1,500 surgical operations each year.

Many precious lives to be rescued!

In November 2012, a desperate young couple arrived at Wachet Charity Hospital after making a two-day bus journey from Shan State in the Northeast part of Myanmar. The mother was holding a six-month old infant boy tightly in her arms, covering him with a blanket. When the blanket was removed, it revealed a 10 cm (about 4 inches) tumour on the back of his tiny head. The baby boy was suffering from an "encephalocele," a birth defect where a part of the brain protrudes like a sac through the skull. If the tumour tissues broke and triggered a brain infection, it would be fatal to the boy.

Initially, the parents visited a village doctor, who told them to find a specialist at a city hospital. They were left completely at a loss but luckily were told by the villagers: "Go to Wachet Hospital. They treat babies and children free." The parents traveled to Wachet Charity Hospital with their baby clinging to the hope that his life could be saved. Fortunately, a team of paediatric surgeons had been dispatched from Japan and were on site when they arrived. The boy underwent immediate surgery to have the tumour removed. Three days later, the medical team could see the baby boy sucking his mother's milk with full strength, while both parents beamed with happiness and relief.

Japan Heart is committed to enriching quality of lives through health care

Health care services at Wachet Charity Hospital are performed by Japanese doctors and nurses along with local staff members who are trained under the guidance of Japan Heart. Local health care professionals are making steady progress in building their knowledge and techniques, treating patients alongside Japanese health care professionals who offer their services as volunteers. Patients treated at Wachet Charity Hospital and their families comment that the heart-felt care itself seems to contribute to restoring the health of patients, and how lucky they are to have received treatment there. Japan Heart will keep striving to provide low-cost, safe and comforting health care at Wachet Charity Hospital, with the goal of enriching the quality of life for everyone involved.

Short Summary of Wachet Hospital Activities

Wachet Hospital and Japan Heart

Wachet Charity Hospital is as an Origin of Japan Heart as medical activities of Japan Heart were established in this hospital since May 2004. It is located in Wachet Village on Sagaing-Mingun Road, Sagaing Division which is in upper central Myanmar.

Although the hospital's capacity is a 25-bedded hospital, it can accommodate up to 200 patients in its busy days. It was initially built for Sangha (Monk) community, however, later changed to a charity hospital for the public. Japan Heart is an international medical volunteer team which is collaborating with this hospital.

Japan Heart's Inside Hospital Activities

- General practice on daily basis at out-patient department
- Monthly surgical missions visited by Dr. Yoshioka
- Other specialist operations
- Medical education and training local healthcare professionals

Japan Heart's Other Medical Activities

1. Mobile Clinics and Medical Tour
 - To many remote areas in Myanmar Short-term period (3– 5 days)
 - General practice care at Charity Eye Care Hospitals which are operated by Mingun Tipidaka Sayadaw by monthly visits to Htee Saung and Ywangan Hospitals since 2019
2. Basic Life Support (BLS) Courses
3. Performing medical check-up at many monastic education centers

In collaboration activities with regional tertiary teaching hospitals

Japanese medical professionals teams were invited through Japan Heart and assisted in joint specific surgeries at teaching hospitals.

The joint operations are as follow.

- Cleft Lip and Palate Repair
- Pediatric Urosurgery
- Paediatric Cardiac Surgery
- Pediatric Hepatobiliary Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery

Donation options

Your support is crucial in providing our mission into reality. Please consider the following donation options:

10USD - 7 times supplementary meal for pediatric patient

25USD – transportation allowance for pediatric patient who received surgery

50USD – one time surgery by local anesthesia

100USD – one time surgery by spinal anesthesia

200USD – one time surgery by general anesthesia

Every contribution, no matter the amount, makes a significant difference in the lives of those impacted by this disaster. Thank you for your generosity and support.

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