



Bambino Gesù
Magazine

REPORT 2018
INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVITIES



*The Hospital
of the Children of the World*

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We, in the world

All the children of the world are **our children - the children of the world**. As a children's hospital we are called upon a mission that is very delicate and engaging, all at the same time: we must **take care** of them.

Particularly of those living in the poorest countries, where economic conditions, conflicts or natural disasters make children even more fragile, if possible.

As it is impossible to manage all the children affected by severe diseases or traumas due to the violence of wars, the mission of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital focuses on "**Donating knowledge**", as **research aimed at cure is the modern form of charity**. This is not a slogan, but the spirit driving the hospital's numerous cooperation projects, that pushed many of our

clinicians to provide training and technological refresher courses to medical and healthcare professionals in different **Asian, African and Middle-Eastern** countries.

Our goal is to empower the hospitals where our clinicians operate, so that they can **treat children effectively**, ensuring the **continuity of care**. One of the guiding principles I shared with the Holy Father is **our openness to the world**, to be able to treat also children living in the most deprived areas. To do so, we shall plan our action not with "turnkey" solutions – unable to solve structural problems – but with sustainable projects, involving the countries concerned.

Mariella Enoc
President of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital






RUSSIA


CHINA


CAMBODIA


INDIA



JORDAN, *Karak*



THE PROJECT

Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital has been operating in Jordan since 2014, by virtue of a cooperation agreement with the Comboni Missionary Sisters (OIK), in charge of managing the Italian Hospital located in Karak – the only healthcare facility in the region. The primary aim of this initiative to create a neurology, neuropsychiatry and neurorehabilitation service at the local facility for the care of children, including those fleeing from the Syrian conflict.

The agreement was renewed in October 2017 for a three-year period, during which the Jordan healthcare staff will be trained locally through missions involving a team of clinicians coming from Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and through internships attended by the Jordan healthcare staff in Italy.

This cooperation includes the setting up of a specialization course on neurodevelopmental disorders, in collaboration with Mutah University in Karak. Training is extended also to the families of our young patients – the so-called “parent training” – to improve the care provided to them. In 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) entered the Karak project as a partner, financing the purchase of materials for neurorehabilitation.



OUR AIM

Improve the clinical care process in paediatric neurology for all children affected by neuromotor disabilities like epilepsy, delays, neurological/genetic syndromes and autistic spectrum disorders.



OUR PARTNERS

- Karak Children's Hospital
- Comboni Missionary Sisters (OIK)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Mutah University in Karak



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

- Lorenzo Borghese (project coordinator)
- Giovanni Valeri (child neuropsychiatrist)
- Daniela Claps (neurologist)
- Alessandro Capuano (neurologist)
- Michela Armando (physical therapist)
- Mauro Ventura (rehabilitation therapist)
- Anna Maria Kofler (rehabilitation therapist)
- Fabio Quarin (speech therapist)
- Federico Vigevano (neurologist)
- Marcello Fraietta (EEG technician)



CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

Apostolic Nunciature



Karak, involving families



“The cooperation project with Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital concerns **children with brain damage**, in need of a neurological and psychomotor rehabilitation process involving their families”.

► **Sister Adele Brambilla,**

General Mother Superior of the Comboni Missionary Sisters (OIK), Italian Hospital in Karak

“We’ve been organizing **parent training** meetings, to help parents to stimulate their disabled child’s skills for an hour a day at home”.

Giovanni Valeri, *Child neuropsychiatrist* ◀



“People gave us a warm welcome. The patients’ **mothers regularly attended our outpatient clinic** without being accompanied. One day the grandfather of a child, who had started to walk again, came with his nephew because he wanted to be treated too”.

Mauro Ventura ◀

Neurosciences and Neurological Rehabilitation Department



JORDAN, *Amman*



UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



THE PROJECT

In November 2017, Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital signed a cooperation agreement with Amman University Hospital for training and healthcare in the field of cardiac surgery. Among the institutional partners of this project, it is worth mentioning the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that has been operating in the country to manage one of the most profound humanitarian crises of the last decade. This two-year cooperation involves the training of medical and nursing staff at Jordanian facilities, as well as the provision of expert care to paediatric patients.



OUR AIM

Improve the care and treatment of Syrian refugees and of the vulnerable Jordanian paediatric population in the field of cardiac surgery.



OUR PARTNERS

- Amman University Hospital
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

- Fiore Salvatore Iorio (cardiac surgeon)
- Sergio Filippelli (cardiac surgeon)
- Luca Di Chiara (anaesthesiologist)
- Marco Della Porta (perfusionist)
- Stefano Tozzi (scrub nurse)
- Floriana Di Iorio (nurse)



CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

Apostolic Nunciature



Amman, care and training



"Today **about 2.8 million Syrian refugees** are living in Jordan. More than half of the 660,000 refugees registered are children. Nearly 80% of them live in communities scattered across the territory, while the rest live in refugee camps or along the north-eastern border with Syria".

"The Church plays a **key role**. The Latin Patriarchate and the Melkite Catholic Church, with the support of Caritas Jordan, are in the frontline of providing help to refugees in the field of training and ensuring them proper healthcare".

Monsignor Mauro Lalli, *Apostolic Nunciature* ■

"The partnership agreed with UNHCR provides for the training of the staff of the **Italian Hospital in Amman** and the care of children in need of general surgeries".

► **Alessandro Inserra**, *Head of the Surgery Department*



“After a long preliminary phase, consisting mainly in the assessment of tools and materials available, during the first week of March, a medical staff from our Hospital visited Amman University Hospital, where **the first 8 patients were successfully treated**”.

“We will never forget the first patient we operated. She was suffering from a severe and complex cardiac condition. When she entered the operatory room, her conditions were critical and her cloths covered with dust. **Her eyes and the gratitude on the face of her parents will never be forgotten**”.

- **Sergio Filippelli**, *Cardiac and respiratory ECMO mechanical support and Artificial heart transplantation*



JORDAN, *Amman*



ITALIAN HOSPITAL



THE PROJECT

The presence of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital in Jordan includes also the Italian Hospital in Amman, where the partnership agreed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides for the training of the local healthcare staff, as well as the care and treatment of children in the field of general surgery.



OUR AIM

Improve the care and treatment of Syrian refugees and of the vulnerable Jordanian paediatric population in the field of cardiac surgery.



OUR PARTNERS

- Italian Hospital in Amman
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

- Alessandro Inserra (surgeon)
- Ivan Pietro Aloï (surgeon)
- Antonio Zaccara (surgeon)
- Sergio Picardo (intensivist)
- Emanuele Rossetti (intensivist)
- Alessio Rascelli (scrub nurse)
- Gino Catena (ophthalmologist)



CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

Apostolic Nunciature





SYRIA, *Damascus*



THE PROJECT

In September 2017, Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital signed a cooperation agreement with the Syrian Country Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) aimed at promoting paediatrics through the strengthening and support to the public children's hospital still operating in the country. This three-year project provides for regular missions to Syria by a team of specialists from Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital for the on-the-job training of the local medical and nursing staff. Syrian healthcare professionals are also offered the opportunity to attend intensive refresher courses in Italy. In its first phase, the project is dedicated to the University Children's Hospital and to the University Centre for Cardiac Surgery located in Damascus with a training focused on laparoscopic surgery, interventional radiology and intensive care; the next phase will involve also the city of Aleppo.



OUR AIM

Improve the quality of paediatric care in the public healthcare sector in Syria.



OUR PARTNERS

- University Children's Hospital
- Centre for Cardiac Surgery - Muwassat University Hospital
- Syrian Country Office of the World Health Organization (WHO)



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

- Massimiliano Raponi (medical director)
- Tamara Caldaro (surgeon)
- Massimo Rollo (interventional radiologist)
- Emanuele Rossetti (intensivist)
- Sergio G. Picardo (intensivist)
- Sofia Cestra (nurse)



CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

Apostolic Nunciature



Damascus, beyond the wounds of the war



“It took a while to **gain their trust**. Then, we analysed together the practical and theoretical aspects, as well as the procedures to follow for the care and treatment of patients. We developed pathways and security checks along years of Joint Commission International. For example, we showed them how to **properly place and fix a central venous catheter**”.

► **Emanuele Rossetti,**
A.R.C.O. (Anaesthesia, resuscitation, operating rooms)

“Through last November preliminary assessment, we understood the reality and the actual **needs of Damascus Public Hospital**. During the last mission, we started a training program for **laparoscopic techniques**, in a daily cooperation with our colleagues from surgery. The laparoscopic approach is a **minimally invasive** technique allowing for all surgeries, greatly benefiting both surgeons and patients”.

Tamara Caldaro, *Digestive Endoscopic Surgery* ◀



“We have to teach them to **collaborate with their colleagues**. The know-how will come later. There are many critical issues – infections and nutritional deficiencies for example. The weaknesses in the healthcare services organization and in the availability of medications and medical devices represent some of the main problems to tackle in our training strategy”.

Massimo Rollo, *Head of Interventional Radiology* ◀

“Bambino Gesù has trained doctors at the Children’s Hospital in Damascus on state-of-the-art care. Specialists have travelled from Rome to Damascus to introduce the latest techniques **in laparoscopy, interventional radiology and intensive care**. After the success of this collaboration, Bambino Gesù is now training staff at the University Hospital in Aleppo, bringing hope to Syrian healthcare professionals. Bambino Gesù’s efforts have helped thousands of Syrian children to recover and to keep living normal lives, knowing that they are not alone. **War is waged by adults, but children often suffer the most.**

▶ **Elizabeth Hoff**, Representative of the World Health Organization in Syria (WHO)

The stories

Aisha, saved by love

*“In the cities under siege, the main problem becomes **hunger**. It is impossible to find food and staples. I saw mothers in the streets looking for some food for their children and I understood **we had to leave**. You cannot accept that your family will starve”.*



*“On the grounds of our tragic previous experience, we immediately recognized her symptoms. Aisha was sick and had a persistent fever; she was tired and had no appetite. She was tested in Beirut and our fears were confirmed: **our child needed a bone marrow transplant**”.*

The stories

*“We understood we had to move again, we still had not reached the place where to start a new life. We asked for help from the UNHCR, that supported us and, thanks to the **agreements for cross-border healthcare with Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital**, helped us to reach Italy”.*



*“She will study, she will learn Italian and will have a wonderful future. Maybe we will stay in Italy, who knows. No doubt, every day I will tell Aisha about her country. She will know about her country of origin. **And she will know that hatred forced us to flee, but love saved us**”.*



CAMBODIA, *Takeo*



THE PROJECT

Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital has been operating in the country for a decade. According to this cooperation agreement, renewed in 2016, the Hospital provides healthcare support and training in the Paediatric Centre of the Provincial Referral Hospital in Takeo – the reference centre for the whole province and for the neighbouring areas. Over the years, the Hospital also took care of some children coming from the missions of Pime (the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions) Missionary Fathers

The cooperation provides for the training of the Cambodian medical and nursing staff in the field of neonatology through specific missions by physicians from Bambino Gesù Hospital, as well as the supply of materials for clinical care and surgeries.



OUR AIM

Improve the healthcare conditions of newborns, children and families taking care of them at the Paediatric Centre.



OUR PARTNERS

Provincial Referral Hospital di Takeo

Cambodian Government



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

Maria Paola Ronchetti (neonatologist)



CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

Apostolic Nunciature

Holy See Secretariat of State



Takeo, witnessing love and sharing



“Through my mission I want to witness the love of God in the sharing of life, **supporting young people** who want to study and escape poverty, and taking care of the sick, particularly of those affected by the most severe conditions, who don’t have access to treatment. This pathway involves catechesis, liturgy and the life of the Christian community in its many activities”.

► **Father Gianluca Tavola**

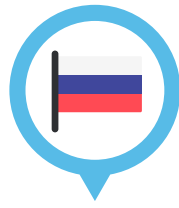
Pime (Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions) Missionary Father



“The Holy See Hospital can do a lot to improve the technical skills and the means of the healthcare service, but I think that it is also important to engage directly in the care of the sick. **Care, love and the value of life cannot be simply taught - they must be witnessed directly.**”

Father Gianluca Tavola ◀

Pime (Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions) Missionary Father



RUSSIA, *Moscow*



THE PROJECT

The partnership between Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and Morozov Children's Clinical Hospital in Moscow provides for training activities both in Russia and Italy in the field of neurology and neurosurgery. According to this three-year agreement, signed in November 2018, Bambino Gesù Hospital will supply, through missions by its medical specialist staff, the support needed for the implementation of diagnostic and treatment protocols, for the treatment of patients and for the training of local staff on the treatment of epilepsies.



OUR AIM

Improve the assessment, management and rehabilitation of children suffering from epilepsy.



OUR PARTNER

Morozov Children's Clinical Hospital



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

Federico Vigevano (neurologist)

Nicola Specchio (neurologist)



CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

Apostolic Nunciature



Precision medicine to fight epilepsy in Russia



“This cooperation focuses on diagnosis and research on neurological disorders, with special attention to epilepsy. The Neurosciences Department will organize training activities and internships aimed at the harmonization of diagnostic criteria. For more complex cases, the Hospital will provide genetic diagnosis for rare and complex diseases through **state-of-the-art genetic tests, including exome sequencing**. Such diagnostic process will allow for the identification of many neurodegenerative disorders for which the pathogenic gene is known. The identification of the genetic defect will pave the way for a targeted therapy, according to the so-called **“precision medicine”**.”

“This project also provides for the support and implementation of **surgeries in resistant epilepsies**, with a discussion of the candidate cases, internships of Russian colleagues at our Hospital and missions by our specialists to Moscow for the treatment of the most complex cases. This activity will also result in a significant scientific production”.

Federico Vigevano ◀

Head of Neurosciences and Neurorehabilitation Department



“The opportunities for exchange both for our Hospital and Moscow Hospital are significant. Our aim is to **implement knowledge and support Russian physicians** in their professional growth and in improving the care provided to young patients”.

Nicola Specchio ◀
Neurologist



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, *Bangui*



THE PROJECT

This project stemmed from Pope Francis visit to Bangui, at the end of his apostolic journey to Africa in 2015, inaugurating the Jubilee of Mercy. This initiative, started in the capital of the Central African Republic, led to the renovation of the already-existing paediatric unit and to the creation of a ward dedicated to malnourished children. In January 2017, Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital undersigned, with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Schooling of the Central African Republic, a cooperation framework agreement providing for the support to university training activities and to the organization of some services. In 2018, training was provided to residents in Paediatrics and will be extended also to university courses in Medicine, thanks to the cooperation with Humanitas University in Milan. Another agreement was signed with Doctors with Africa Cuamm, aimed at "reviving" management bodies in charge of the management of organization, administration and clinics, through technical support provided at different levels.



OUR AIM

Improve the quality of paediatric care in the country, reducing the newborn and child mortality rate due to malnutrition.



OUR PARTNERS

- Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene and Population
- Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research
- Doctors with Africa - Cuamm
- Faculty of Health Sciences - University of Bangui
- Humanitas University - Milan



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

- Andrea Onetti Muda (pathologist)
- Pietro Bagolan (neonatal surgeon)
- Francesca Diomedi Camassei (pathologist)
- Viola Alesi (geneticist)
- Massimiliano Raponi (medical director)
- Alessandra Maria Martino (infectivologist)



CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

- Apostolic Nunciature



Improving training in the Central African Republic



“The goal of this project is **training the local healthcare specialists** to enable them to care for patients not only in Bangui, but in the whole country - one of the poorest in the world”.

“In order to achieve our objectives, **four conditions will have to be fulfilled**: the availability of Italian academics to teach at Bangui University for some periods; the setting up of a distance-learning system through a dedicated high-speed internet connection; the provision of some courses at the faculty of Medicine, focusing not only on paediatrics; **internships for African physicians at Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital**”.

Andrea Onetti Muda ◀

Head of Laboratories Department



“The aim of this project is to develop **better treatments for children, in order to reduce mortality**. For this purpose, a general renovation was started, economic support was granted to some doctors and paramedics of the Hospital, while many resources are being invested in university training”.

► **Ombretta Pasotti**

Medical Coordinator of the Paediatric Centre in Bangui

“The building of the new centre shows that it is possible to work well together, even in a **context of fragility**, as in this country. I think this is the most important achievement, which goes beyond the completion of the work itself”.

Marta Brancaloni ◀

Head of construction works

The stories

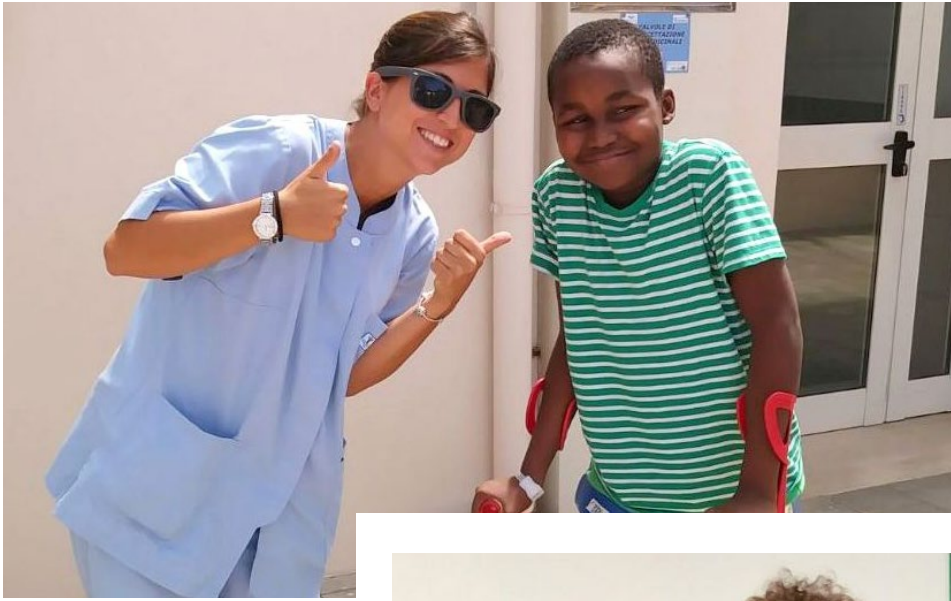
Christy's "second" first steps

"My name is **Christy**. I'm 13 years old. I live in **Bangui** with my grandmother and my father. On November 4th, 2015, like every morning, I was on the bus to school. Some **armed soldiers** broke into the bus and started firing at the passengers with their assault rifles. Some shots hit my legs. I never walked again".



"In Bangui no means are available to treat me, but I'm waiting for my occasion. One day, at Bangui Hospital – where I've been hospitalized for nearly one year – I met **one of Pope Francis friends**, to whom I gave a letter for the Holy Father. My letter simply said: Help me".

The stories



“That help came through the **international solidarity projects** of Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital, thanks to which the Hospital receives children coming from poor contexts or affected by very complex conditions, requiring highly specialized treatments. My call for help turned into aid. I underwent a **complex surgery to correct my deformities**, after which I could start a long rehabilitation process. Thanks to the love and patience of my therapists and neurorehabilitation specialists in Palidoro and **Santa Marinella**, I was back on my feet - at the beginning with crutches and then, bit by bit, unassisted, I started taking my “second” first steps”.



CHINA, *Hebei*



THE PROJECT

The cooperation between Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and the Children's Hospital of Hebei Province in Shijiazhuang, capital of the Hebei province, started in November 2017 and is aimed at supplying specialist training in different paediatric disciplines to our Chinese partner. The three-year partnership provides for training periods at Bambino Gesù Hospital for young Chinese specialists in different paediatric disciplines. Furthermore, training missions by specialists from Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital will be organized at Hebei Hospital.

In the first phase, training focused only on cardiac surgery and cardiac surgery intensive care, to be gradually extended to other paediatric specialties.



OUR AIM

Improve the quality of paediatric care provided by the Children's Hospital of Hebei Province.



OUR PARTNER

Children's Hospital of Hebei Province



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

Fiore Salvatore Iorio (cardiac surgeon)

Sergio Filippelli (cardiac surgeon)



Hebei, respect and professionalism beyond language barriers



“Our Chinese colleagues work in a modern and effective hospital; nevertheless, they need to improve their knowledge in the treatment of **complex congenital heart diseases with univentricular physiology**. Furthermore, they are very interested in temporary cardiac and respiratory ECMO support”.

► **Sergio Filippelli**

Cardiac and respiratory ECMO mechanical support and Artificial heart transplantation



“Interaction and working methods gave positive results, despite the major problem of linguistic barriers. We were warmly welcomed **and respected by the families of the patients**, whom we had the honour of treating”.

Sergio Filippelli ◀

Cardiac and respiratory ECMO mechanical support and Artificial heart transplantation



GEORGIA, *Tbilisi*



THE PROJECT

This cooperation between Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and Iashvili Children's Central Hospital in Tbilisi, signed in April 2017, focuses on the training of physicians and nurses in cardiac surgery, catheterization and cardiac surgery intensive care. In addition to the training of the local healthcare staff, this two-year agreement provides for the transfer and hospitalization at Bambino Gesù Hospital in Rome of children suffering from complex heart diseases, the treatment of which is not possible in the local facilities.



OUR AIM

Improve diagnosis, care and treatment of young patients affected by heart diseases.



OUR PARTNER

Iashvili Children's Central Hospital



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

Fiore Salvatore Iorio (cardiac surgeon)

Stefano Morelli (cardiac anaesthesiologist)

Michele Benedetto Saitta
(interventional cardiologist)

Sergio Filippelli (cardiac surgeon)



Tbilisi, towards the enhancement of cardiac surgery



“The situation in Tbilisi was good. The **paediatric cardiac surgery** had been operating for a while already, but a refinement was needed to develop neonatal cardiac surgery. We helped them improve the knowledge they already had, making them feel more confident in the treatment of newborns - the most fragile patients in cardiac surgery. Small dimensions make everything more difficult”.

► **Fiore Salvatore Iorio**, *Head of Medical and Surgical Department of Paediatric Cardiology*

“I can still feel the sense of involvement of all Georgian colleagues, their **gratitude** for our day-to-day work; this shows that sharing our skills and attitudes with all communities is the best path to improvement for all”.

Stefano Morelli, *Head of Cardiac Surgery Anaesthesia and Resuscitation* ◀



"The orthodox religion worships the Virgin Mary of the Not Withering Flower.
Our children are flowers who should never wither".

Fiore Salvatore Iorio ◀

Head of Medical and Surgical Department of Paediatric Cardiology



ETHIOPIA,

Addis Abeba, Wolisso, Tulu Bolo



THE PROJECT

Newborn Survival Project is the project of Doctors with Africa CUAMM selected for funding by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in June 2018. Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital takes part in it as a partner, together with Tor Vergata University of Rome. The cooperation includes the transfer of skills and knowledge in the field of neonatology by physicians from Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital to the local healthcare staff of three level I, II and III Ethiopian hospitals: Tulu Bolo District Hospital, St. Luke Hospital in Wolisso and St. Paul Teaching Hospital in Addis Abeba.



OUR AIM

Reduce neonatal mortality rate through the improvement of neonatal intensive care units in the three hospitals involved.



OUR PARTNERS

- Doctors with Africa - Cuamm (head of project)
- DPUO - Tor Vergata University
- Tulu Bolo District Hospital
- St. Luke Hospital
- St. Paul Teaching Hospital



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

- Andrea Dotta (neonatologist)
- Andrea Finocchi (paediatrician)



CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

- Chiesa Cattolica etiope



In Ethiopia to reduce neonatal mortality



“The three hospitals where we will operate represent the three levels of intervention of the healthcare system that we want to empower through our contribution. This project will support the improvement of national guidelines for the management of infants. We are proud to contribute to the development of good practices - the only way to **enhance the growth of a sustainable healthcare system in Africa**”.

► **Father Dante Carraro**, *Director of Doctors with Africa – CUAMM*



“Together with dr. Andrea Finocchi, we visited the three hospitals that will receive the direct intervention for **neonatal care**. The program provides for four-monthly visits to identify and share the main critical issues with the local operators, who will carry out audits for all deaths in all birthing units and neonatology wards. These critical issues will also be tackled during traditional and interactive lessons. As Italian operators, we have to be grateful for this project: it will be a huge source of personal, cultural and professional growth”.

Andrea Dotta, *Head of Neonatal Intensive Care Unit* ◀



TANZANIA, *Itigi*



THE PROJECT

The partnership between Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and San Gaspar Referral and Teaching Hospital in Itigi, Tanzania – administered by the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood – was signed in September 2018 with the aim of transferring to the medical staff of the African Hospital knowledge and skills concerning specific treatment, diagnosis and care pathways in the field of plastic and maxillofacial surgery.

This three-year agreement includes regular missions by a team of physicians from Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital to Itigi, as well as residential training internships in Rome for Tanzanian clinicians. According to the agreement, doctors from Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital will also provide to the local healthcare staff a second-opinion service in radiology and imaging reading.



OUR AIM

Improve the diagnosis, care and treatment of San Gaspar Hospital's young patients who need plastic or maxillofacial surgeries.



OUR PARTNER

San Gaspar Referral and Teaching Hospital



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

Mario Zama (surgeon)

Francesca Grussu (surgeon)

Saverio Cristini (anaesthesiologist)

Luciana Di Rienzo (nurse)



CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

Congregation of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood



Elimisha, Tiba, Fariji: to educate, cure and comfort



"As Missionaries of the Precious Blood, the possibility to collaborate with Bambino Gesù Hospital in Tanzania is an immense gift. At San Gaspar Hospital we say in Swahili: *Elimisha, Tiba, Fariji: to educate, cure and comfort.* **In Tanzania we need to move very carefully, trying to understand customs and practices of the population we serve**".

► **Father Alessandro Manzi**, *Missionary of the Precious Blood and coordinator of the project at San Gaspar Referral Hospital in Itigi, Tanzania*

Our goal is to train healthcare operators who want to remain in Itigi also after learning our techniques. We very much trust **Father Oscar**, a priest of the Congregation of the Precious Blood who manages Itigi Hospital as a part of the mission of the Congregation. Majored in Medicine, he will work at our Hospital for about one year and a half. During his training in Rome, we will travel twice with him to operate at Itigi Hospital, allowing him to implement what he learnt during his training".

Mario Zama, *Head of Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery* ◀



“Tanzanian toddlers get severe burns mainly by **crawling towards their home fireplaces**. The poorest live in houses made of a unique and small room, built with straw and mud, with a coal fireplace in the middle of it. The members of the family sleep all together and it often happens that children wake up and get too close to the fire, thus getting burned”.

► **Mario Zama**, *Head of Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery*



INDIA, *Bangalore*



THE PROJECT

The cooperation between Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital and Saint John’s Medical College and Hospital in Bangalore started in 2015, in the framework of the international program “Sister Centres” promoted and funded by the International Society of Nephrology and the International Transplantation Society. It aims at the transfer of knowledge and skills in the field of kidney transplantation. The program is made of a first two-year period, followed by other two two-year modules that will be activated after the assessment of the results achieved during the first period. The activities under the project include the training of the local healthcare staff and remote advice and support for complex case.



OUR AIM

Improve the quality of the surgical treatment of children suffering from nephropathies requiring kidney transplant.



OUR PARTNERS

- Saint John’s Medical College and Hospital in Bangalore
- International Society of Nephrology
- International Transplantation Society



CLINICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT AT BAMBINO GESÙ HOSPITAL

- Francesco Emma (nephrologist)
- Luca Dello Strologo (nephrologist)
- Marco Spada (surgeon)
- Simona Gerocarni Nappo (surgeon)
- Isabella Guzzo (nephrologist)



A new model for transplants in India



This project is very engaging. The context is very poor, but our colleagues from Saint John's Hospital are very dedicated and, in a situation where private healthcare – accessible only to the richest ones – plays a leading role, they chose **to treat patients in a public facility**, thus giving up higher economic returns. Through this cooperation, we try and extend transplanted organs lifetime, approaching international standards as much as possible”.

► **Luca Dello Strologo**, *Head of Kidney Transplantation Centre*

“We exported our modern organizational model for the organ transplantation program, according to which **the nephrologist and the surgeon work together** in each phase of the transplant process: from the examination of patients to the surgery itself and the management of the post-transplant phase. This approach contributed to improve the results achieved by the transplantation activity of Bangalore Centre”.

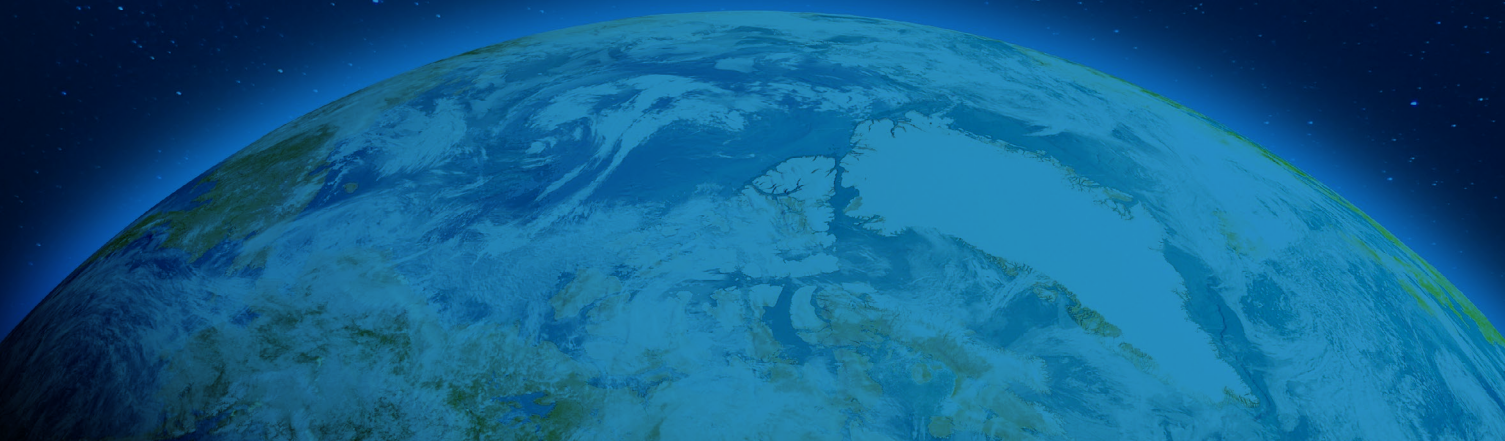
Marco Spada, *Head of Hepatic biliary and pancreatic surgery and Abdominal transplants* ◀



“Besides the clinical work, we promoted an international project, involving the International Paediatric Transplant Association, aimed at identifying cultural, economic and logistical barriers that can hinder the setting up of a successful program for transplants. Even now, **in India organ transplants are mistrusted** and sometimes they cannot be carried out for economic reasons or because of the distance separating the patient and the Centre performing them. In such cases, children pay the price - sometimes irreparably.

Luca Dello Strologo, *Head of Kidney Transplantation Centre* ◀

The Hospital of the Children of the World



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