

**INTERNATIONAL  
ACTIVITIES**  
**BAMBINO GESÙ**  
**CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**  
**2020**

**SUMMARY REPORT**







THEM-SS-ONO

**F B A M B I N O G E S U C H I L D**

# REN' HOSPITAL

In line with its mission and with the principles

defining its identity, the goal of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital is to bring its clinical and scientific knowledge to the world, particularly to those areas where they are most needed, through the training of local health

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as periods of residential training in Rome, dedicated to the local medical and nursing staffs.

The choice of the paediatric specialities on which the training is focused is based on

the analysis of the needs expressed by the countries asking for the intervention of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital. Currently, the Hospital is mainly active in Africa, Asia, Middle



# COOPERATION PROJECTS

The COVID-19 pandemic brought a historical change in the international cooperation for development. On the one hand, the actors of cooperation suffered a sudden standstill of fieldwork activities and, therefore, had to re-adapt the intervention tools and strategies they had been using until then; on the other hand, the issue of global health has become a top priority in the agenda of national governments, international agencies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society. The direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic on the most fragile population groups are now evident, and include the lack of access to care, the temporary suspension of essential healthcare services, as well as the repercussions in terms of poverty.

Since March 2020, the International Activities Function of Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital has implemented a dual strategy aimed at ensuring continued support to its partners, also during the sanitary emergency, through remote case management, study webinars and sharing of healthcare and good practice protocols; at the same time, the Function has been looking for a long-term solution allowing for the continuation of excellence medical and nursing training activities in those countries that need it most.

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# INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

2020 most relevant initiatives of international cooperation



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## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The project, launched in 2016 within the framework agreement between the Vatican's Secretariat of State, the President of the Central African Republic, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Teaching, continued also in 2020 with academic training (both distance and in-presence) at various African universities. In January, a team from Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and Milan Humanitas University gave life to a working group composed of university and hospital managers, as well as executives from the Ministry of Health of the Central African Republic, focused on *leadership e team building* issues. Furthermore, a local physician could benefit from a six-month training program at the Department of Paediatrics of Bambino Gesù. The Hospital also supported the ordinary maintenance works for the new centre for therapeutic re-nutrition, which was inaugurated in Bangui the previous year, and supplied PPE for the fight against the pandemic. Furthermore, an illustrated tale was printed, dedicated to children and their parents, to raise awareness and reduce the numerous accidents due to the improper use of caustic soda.

## ETHIOPIA

Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital is a partner, together with Tor Vergata University of Rome, of the three-year *Newborn Survival Project*, carried out by Doctors with Africa CUAMM and





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## SYRIA

This training project, based on a cooperation agreement with the World Health Organization Country Office in Syria, came to an end in September 2020. The collaboration focused on training in the field of laparoscopic surgery, interventional radiology, intensive care and cardiac surgery, through on-the-job training missions at Damascus University Children's Hospital by a team of clinicians and surgeons from Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital. The four missions planned for 2020 were cancelled due to the pandemic and to the subsequent closure of the Syrian borders. Nevertheless, the collaboration continued throughout the year with requests for consultations and discussion of cases by the Syrian physicians of Damascus Hospital to their OPBG colleagues.

## JORDAN

The eight-year agreement between Bambino Gesù Hospital and the Missionary Sisters managing the Italian presence and the continuous improvement of paediatric neurology, neuropsychiatry in the province of Karak, among whom the Sisters of the Holy Family. Although the pandemic prevented Bambino Gesù Hospital from continuing its rehabilitation program on site during 2020, the Sisters continued to care for patients, their families, the Comboni Sisters and the Bambino Gesù Hospital to





plan and launch online sessions for technical training and remote consultation on complex clinical cases. The sessions focused on the neurorehabilitation of patients suffering from diplegia, spastic quadriplegia and dystonia secondary to cerebral lesions, and on child neuropsychiatry, with patients suffering from delayed motor development and autism.

## IRAN

The assessment activities for the new cooperation requests continued, leading to a series of preparatory meetings for the signing of the agreement between Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and the Zanjireh Omid International Charity Institute, the Foundation headquartered in Teheran and independent branch of the French *La Chaîne de l'Espoir* (The Chain of Hope), that for over ten years has been providing free healthcare to disadvantaged Iranian children. The meeting highlighted the need to establish a collaboration for the development and implementation of cooperation projects for the transfer of knowledge and skills in the field of paediatric neurosurgery. The agreement, which will be signed soon, will include remote consultation activities for complex cases requiring neurosurgery, residential training for the Iranian healthcare staff in Italy, and on-the-job training missions to Iran by teams of clinicians from Bambino Gesù Hospital.

## CAMBODIA

Bambino Gesù Hospital has been active in Cambodia for more than ten years, providing healthcare support



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n, whose families could not afford the costs of the

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The launch of the project coincided with the outbreak of the pandemic, immediately requiring the reorganization of the training programme. Bambino Gesù specialists, through a continuous dialogue with the Acosta Nù healthcare staff, developed a training programme including numerous webinars and remote case management sessions for the discussion of complex clinical cases. Throughout the year, ten training sessions were provided, with a total of 14 healthcare professionals trained. Furthermore, Bambino Gesù Hospital supported the Paraguayan colleagues concerning Covid-19, by providing remote consultations and by sharing its protocols for emergency management.

## EL SALVADOR

This project, funded entirely by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was launched in the framework of the cooperation agreement signed in February 2020 by Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and the Italo-Latin America Institute (ILLA), aimed at improving the professional skills of the local healthcare staff. During this first year, characterized by the pandemic, activities were focused on supporting Benjamin Bloom Children's Hospital (El Salvador) in the management of the Covid-19 emergency, by providing remote consultations and by sharing Bambino Gesù protocols for emergency management.

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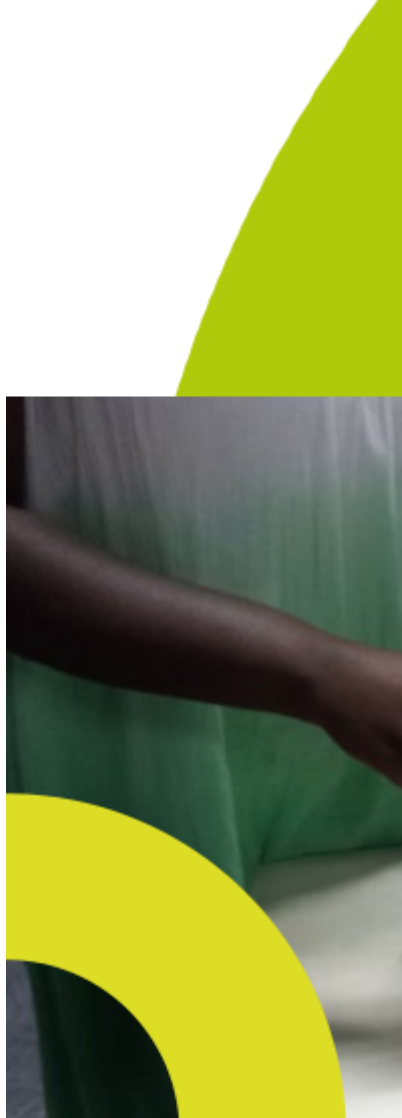
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**International Activities**  
**Communication and International Activities Function**  
**Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital**

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