

1. Treating Patients and Training the Local Medical staff in cooperation with Italian organizations

During the year 2022, Heevie organization continued the activities of one of its programs that is aiming to provide the treatment opportunities and guarantee the availability of the necessary medical support for patients with various diseases and deformities, such as congenital heart diseases and malformations, kidney and reproductive system malformations, tumors and malignant diseases and blood diseases, both through surgical interventions and medical treatment modalities.

This program is implemented through the support of the health office of His Excellency the President of Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Government and in coordination with Italian partners, and through it, hundreds of children with various medical and surgical problems have been sent to Italy to receive the treatment, while huge number were operated and treated by the specialized Italian teams, who visited the region when the infrastructure of the local health centers became ready to support the program activities.

Since the year 2006 till 2014, the Italian teams conducted nearly 4 missions per year, during which more than **200** operations were carried out in one year (an average of **50** operations per each visit). Those missions were an opportunity to build the capacity of the local staff through training them on preparing the patients for surgeries, post-operative follow-up and care, intensive care unit work, managing complications and performing different medical and surgical operation, in addition to training doctors on echocardiogram in the Italian hospitals.

After the program was stopped in the previous years as a result of the situation in the region, and with Heevie efforts to resume the program, in cooperation the Ministry of Health in KRI, DoH Duhok, Bambini Cardiopatici nel Mondo Italian organization and San Donato Hospital in Milano, an Italian surgical team specialized in treating congenital heart malformations from San Donato hospital - Milan arrived Kurdistan Region of Iraq in a special mission in order to perform surgical interventions for a number of children suffering from cardiac anomalies. The mission was conducted on November 2022 during which the team examined **63** patients and performed surgical operations for seven of them.

The Italian cardiac team, led by Prof. Frigiola, Dr. Varrica, Dr. Saracino, Dr. Satriano and Dr. Ascari, performed two heart surgeries that are the first of their kind to be performed in Iraq, Ross operation and Warden Procedure. In addition, other five congenital heart diseases were operated successfully, a Transposition of Great Arteries, a Tetralogy of Fallot, a Partial Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Connection and two Ventricular Septal Defects.

During 2022, **four** children with congenital heart diseases were sent to Italy for surgical intervention and **seven** surgical operations were performed by the Italian team in Kurdistan Region.

Project photo's: Treating Patients and Training the Local Medical staff in cooperation with Italian organizations

