

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

Heevie Organization in its efforts to provide the best treatment and management opportunities for the patients suffering from chronic and difficult to be treated diseases; this is done through a well-organized program implemented in coordination with the Italian hospitals, centers and organizations. This specific Heevie project is active since 2006, through which Heevie is providing the necessary medical assistance for children with various diseases and those with congenital and acquired organ malformations through the surgical intervention and other management modalities. The cases treated involved children with congenital heart diseases, renal and genital systems malformations, patients with malignancies, blood disorders and others.

By the support of the KRI government and in coordination with the Italian partners, hundreds of children suffering from various medical and surgical problems were sent to Italy to receive the necessary medical and surgical treatment according to the nature of the diseases and the treatment required. In a step to better prepare the local facilities for such interventions, Heevie organization and in coordination with KRI government and the Italian partners provided the necessary support in order to establish the local health infrastructure so as to be ready perform the program activities. In this field, specialized Italian teams started to visit KRI according to a regular schedule, usually, a minimum of 4 missions/year were performed during which more than 200 operations were done (50 operations per each mission).

With the start of the ISIS occupation and wars and after the last crises and security instability in Iraq, the Italian teams were unable to visit the country; as a solution for that and instead, Heevie used to collect the most acute patients and send them to Italy for operations. Total number of patients underwent surgical interventions in Italy during the year 2020 are (2) patients. Efforts are ongoing by Heevie to resume the program in Iraq through regulating new missions for the Italian teams according to the needs and gaps.

Heevie got benefit from the specialized Italian teams during their regular visits to the region to perform the capacity building for the local staff through involving them in the overall steps of the program, involving the different management steps and all the intervention procedures performed. This was done through performing special training programs for the local staff on the different topics related to the medical and surgical interventions, starting from preparation of the patients for the surgical operations, going through the surgical interventions, postoperative follow up and care, ICU monitoring, treatment of complications and performing various medical and surgical procedures. The program also involved training of the doctors (mainly pediatricians) on Echocardiography examination for the patients with congenital heart diseases in Italy. The project of treating patients and training the local medical staff was implemented by the support of many partners and donors especially the Italian organizations, hospitals and centers, American embassy at Baghdad and other donors.

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