

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

During the year 2021, Heevie organization continues the activities of one of its important projects aiming to provide treatment opportunities for patients suffering from difficult and difficult to cure diseases, which is through a regular program implemented in cooperation with Italian partners involving hospitals, advanced medical centers and the Italian organizations. Through this project, Heevie provides the necessary medical support and treatment opportunities for children with various diseases and deformities, which is done either through surgical interventions or through the other treatment methods. The diseases that were treated included congenital heart diseases and malformations, kidney and reproductive system malformations, tumors and malignant diseases, blood diseases and others.

Since the beginning of the program, hundreds of children with various medical and surgical problems have been sent to Italy for medical and surgical treatment, which was done with the support of the Kurdistan Regional Government and in coordination with Italian partners. When the infrastructure of the local health centers became ready to support the activities of the program, the specialized Italian teams began to visit the Kurdistan Region of Iraq according to a regular schedule, at a rate of 4 missions per year, during these visits more than 200 operations were carried out during one year (an average of 50 operations per each visit).

During their regular visits to the region, the existence of the specialized Italian teams was utilized to involve the local staff in all phases of the program and treatment as part of training and capacity building. This included training on preparing the patients for surgeries, post-operative follow-up and care, intensive care unit work, managing complications and performing different medical and surgical operations. The program also included training doctors on echocardiogram in the Italian hospitals.

After a program was stopped in the previous years as a result of the situation in the region, Heevie organization is working to resume the program in cooperation with the Italian partners and the local government. During the year 2021, and part of the project, (7) children suffering from congenital heart diseases were sent to Italy to undergo surgery and receive the necessary treatment.

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