International Geneva Directory of Swiss Global Health Actors

Fondazione Bambini Cardiopatici Nel Mondo | FBCM

http://www.bambinicardiopatici.ch/

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

Cardiopathic children in the world Foundation (FBCM) directly supports children affected by congenital heart diseases who were born in poor countries and without adequate healthcare facilities. Every year the number of cases is above 500.000. Most of the times they are critical children condemned by the socio-economical or healthcare situation, and they will almost certainly die if not helped. In front of this dramatic situation, people cannot remain indifferent. The foundation was born on the 21st of July in 1998 to oppose this situation. It is inspired by values of the Swiss tradition for solidarity and acts supporting through the effort of the so-called "flying doctors": surgeons, anesthesiologists, intensive care doctors, cardiologists - all volunteers - that engage to freely provide their experience and expertise.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Cardiac surgery
- Local staff training
- Healthcare facilities building
- AIDS prevention

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Way to fulfill the mandate may vary: ranging from local staff training directly in the country needing specialists, to the building of healthcare facilities adequate to the provision of medical and diagnostic devices. Not to be forgotten also the commitment of doctors who intervene directly on the field with surgeries and at the same time help the patients' families. When this is not possible, the foundation cooperates with foreign health institutions, NGOs and other associations in order to let the children to be cured abroad.

In Guinea Bissau, collaborating with Fondazione Cardiocentro Ticino, Samorì association, Céu e Terras association and other NGOs, the foundation is working on three levels: AIDS prevention, building of a new hospital and training of local staff in Switzerland. It has also funded the travel and cure of 22 children affected by cardiovascular diseases. In Cairo (Egypt), it has been working on training cardiologists and cardiac surgeons for children for more than 10 years. It has been working with Kasr El Eini pediatric hospital to build a Cardiac Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, a new Surgery room, and now it continues to train local staff and to deploy medical mission in loco. In Syria, it has been working on building a pediatric cardiac ward in the Damascus university hospital. The center now is performing surgeries for 800-1000 patients each year. The foundation also provides local staff training, scholarship to become a specialist in Italy and medical mission in loco for most complex cases.

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GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

The president of the foundation is Max Spiess, with Pietro Veragouth as the Vice-president. The Secretary is Dante Moccetti. Other members of the foundation board are Prof. Dr. MD Tiziano Moccetti, Fabio Rezzonico, Dr. MD Giovanni Pedrazzini, Prof. Dr. MD Alessandro Frigiola, Augusto Bizzini, Prof. Dr. MD Silvia Cirri and Marco Terlizzi. The foundation relies on volunteers, and its headquarters are based at the Fondazione Cardiocentro Ticino, at the University hospital of Lugano.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

Funding comes from donations from credit institutions, companies, but mostly from the citizen who decide to support FBCM efforts.

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GRADUATE

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