

##Press Release##

15 children treated under QRCS's Little Hearts project in Indonesia

March 1st, 2021 — Doha: Qatar Red Crescent Society's (QRCS) Little Hearts project is going on in Indonesia, in cooperation with the Indonesian Red Cross Society (PMI) and Indonesia's Ministry of Health (MOH).

The \$106,560 project is aimed at treating 40 children with congenital heart defects, including ventricular septal defects (VSD) and patent ductus arteriosus (PDA).

It involves performing catheterizations at the National Cardiac Center Harapan Kita (NCCHK) in Jakarta. So far, 15 children ranging from one month to eight years of age have been operated on the heart.

Three groups of 16 specialized doctors and consultants are engaged in the project, covering the specialties of pediatric cardiology, diagnostic non-invasive cardiology, and anesthesia.

The COVID-19 pandemic limited the speed of NCCHK's interventions. Prior to the interventions, COVID-19 screening process has to be finalized. The NCCHK put more effort to tighten the COVID-19 protocols, re-disinfected the areas, and conducted self-swab tests for both the patients and health workers in order to reduce the risks to COVID-19 around the hospital.

At the inauguration ceremony, attended by NCCHK's board members, PMI Secretary-General, and team members, the project was commended as rarely implemented in Indonesia, where the numbers of congenital heart diseases (CHD) are increasing. On average, nine out of 1,000 born-alive infants have CHD, with a total of 40,000 babies.

Being the first Little Hearts project to be executed in Indonesia, it is part of the Medical Convoys program, which involves providing treatment for poor patients, performing surgeries in many medical specializations, supplying the host hospitals with surgical equipment and consumables, and training medical professionals in the latest medical advancements.

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Established in 1978, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is a humanitarian volunteering organization that aims to assist and empower vulnerable individuals and communities without partiality or discrimination.

QRCS is a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which consists of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and 191 National Societies. QRCS is also a member of several GCC, Arab, and Islamic organizations, such as the Islamic Committee of International Crescent and the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization (ARCO). In this legally recognized capacity, QRCS has access to disaster and conflict zones, thus serving as an auxiliary to the State of Qatar in its humanitarian efforts — a role that distinguishes it from other local charities and NGOs.

QRCS operates both locally and internationally and has ongoing international relief and development projects in a number of countries throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Europe. QRCS's humanitarian actions include providing support in disaster preparedness, disaster response, risk reduction, and disaster recovery. To mitigate the impact of disasters and improve the livelihoods of affected populations, QRCS provides medical services, healthcare, and social development to local communities. It is also active at the humanitarian advocacy front. With the help of a vast network of trained, committed staff and volunteers, QRCS aspires to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity.

QRCS works under the umbrella of the seven international humanitarian principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.

