

SAVE A CHILD'S HEART

RWANDA MISSION REPORT, KING FAISAL HOSPITAL KIGALI

MARCH 3-6 2025 (PRE-MISSION SCREENING)
MARCH 16-20 2025 (CATH MISSION)

SAVE A CHILD'S HEART

KING FAISAL HOSPITAL RWANDA

SAVE A CHILD'S HEART

SAVING CHILDREN'S LIVES ONE HEART AT A TIME

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Save A Child's Heart (SACH) is an Israeli humanitarian nonprofit organization that has been working since 1995 to save the hearts of children from around the world every day. We save the lives of children with heart defects who cannot receive the treatment they need in their home countries where access to pediatric cardiac care is limited or non-existent. We are guided by ***tikkun olam***, doing good to make the world a better place, and the belief that every child, regardless of gender, race, culture, socioeconomic status, or any such factor, are entitled to a healthy heart.
Our holistic approach to the global issue of pediatric heart disease features five pillars:

1. **Medical treatment –** bringing children from countries unable to treat congenital and rheumatic heart disease to Israel to receive life-saving treatment in cutting-edge facilities at the new Save a Child's Heart International Pediatric Cardiac Centre (IPCC) at the Sylvan Adams Children's Hospital from highly- skilled doctors and medical support staff.
2. **Medical training –** training medical personnel from abroad in Israel to build the local capacity to treat pediatric cardiac disease.
3. **Medical missions overseas –** administering onsite treatment and training local medical teams to build the capacity to provide pediatric cardiac care locally in addition to following up with children we previously treated in Israel.
4. **Improved medical care –** advancing medical capabilities in pediatric cardiac care through treatment, training, and innovation at the new SACH IPCC and Children's Hospital, initiated and established by SACH.
5. **Young leadership –** engaging the next generation of communal, business, and social leaders in our life-saving work via volunteering, educational initiatives, fundraising campaigns, and more, showcasing our work, which exemplifies Israel's humanitarianism.

To date, we have saved over 7,500+ children with congenital and rheumatic (acquired) heart disease from 72 countries at no charge to their families, trained more than 150 medical personnel who went on to provide pediatric cardiac care in their home countries, evaluated more than 16,000 children, and performed nearly 600 procedures alongside local physicians trained by SACH in Israel during 115 medical missions overseas. Our work has earned us the Israeli “Presidential Award for Volunteerism”; special consultative status with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and the 2018 UN Population Award, the first and only Israeli organization to ever win this prestigious award.

BACKGROUND: SAVE A CHILD'S HEART AND RWANDA

Save a Child's Heart (SACH) has been a proud partner in Rwanda's journey toward building a sustainable pediatric cardiac care system. Founded with the mission to provide life-saving pediatric cardiac care to children in countries with limited access, SACH has worked hand in hand with Rwanda's Ministry of Health (RMOH) and King Faisal Hospital Rwanda (KFHR) in Kigali to transform the landscape of pediatric cardiac treatment in the region.
This partnership was formalized through Memorandums of Understanding signed in 2018, 2021, and most recently on October 6, 2023. Under this agreement, SACH committed to providing life-saving cardiac care to 30 Rwandan children annually at the Sylvan Adams Children's Hospital and International Pediatric Cardiac Center at Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, Israel, while simultaneously building local capacity through fellowships, equipment donations, and visiting medical missions.

Since 2007, 64 Rwandan children have been treated in Israel and 229 children locally in Rwanda supported by Save a Child's Heart.

MISSION 2024



The first catheterization mission to Rwanda took place in May 2024. Led by Dr. Sagi Assa, the interventional cardiology team collaborated with KFHR partners including two Rwandan fellows trained in Israel – Dr. Lise Mumporeze and Dr. Gerard Misago – and Ethiopian surgeon Dr. Yayu Mekonnen, also a SACH-trained fellow, now Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon at the King Faisal Hospital in Kigali. Their joint efforts resulted in 22 successful catheterizations.
This mission also underscored a broader vision: to establish a local catheterization service that would make pediatric cardiac care more sustainable and accessible within Rwanda.

MISSION 2025

The 2025 mission to Rwanda represented a significant step forward in the partnership between SACH and Rwanda's health sector.

Pre-Mission-Screening: March 3–6, 2025
Ahead of the main catheterization medical teaching mission, a cardiology clinic led by Dr. Hanita Shai, Senior Pediatric Cardiologist & Head of Pediatric Cardiac MRI program, was conducted from March 3–6 at the Centre d'Excellence Mpore of the the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali (CHUK). During this pre-screening, **83 children were evaluated.**
The mission was supported by Rwandan pediatric cardiologists, Dr. Emmanuel Rusingiza Kamanzi, and Dr. Gerard Misago (SACH fellow in training), Dr. Angelique Murorunkwere and Dr. Emmanuel Mugwaneza, pediatric cardiology fellows.

The pre-mission clinic was made possible thanks to the expertise and commitment of the following SACH team members alongside Dr. Hanita Shai:

- Nicolas Zakak – Nurse
- Yifat Brosh – Pediatric Echocardiography Technician

Outcome
83 were children evaluated:
47 new patients – among them, 20 selected for catheterization during the catheterization mission.
36 follow-up patients – 2 of whom were selected for catheterization on the main mission
An additional 2 children were identified as candidates for treatment in Israel.

The Catheterization Mission: March 16–20, 2025
The second catheterization mission took place at King Faisal Hospital ("KFH") with the dedicated KFH medical team. The mission was led once again by Senior Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Sagi Assa. Joining him from Israel was a team of medical professionals and support staff, including:

- Dr. Andry Gluch – Senior Anesthetist
- Dr. Inbar Cohen – Pediatric Resident
- Lyudmila Yatshuk – Nurse
- Hila Zana – Cath Lab Technician
- Svetlana Katsovich – Head Nurse, Cath Lab
- Orit Ben Coresh – Deputy Head Nurse, Cardiology
- Eran Heruthy – Cath Lab Technician
- Ido Gutin – SACH Resource Development Director and mission administrator

Also integral to this mission were SACH fellows in training:

- Dr. Lise Mumporeze, Pediatric Intensive Care Fellow
- Dr. Christine Niyibogora, Anesthesiology Fellow
- Dr. Gerard Misago, Pediatric Cardiology Fellow
- Dr. Abebe Fitsum Argaw, Surgical Fellow

Surgical Component
In addition to catheterizations, five life-saving surgeries were performed during this mission. These were led by:
Dr. Yayehyirad Ejigu, SACH-trained surgeon (from 2008 till 2013) and assisted by our current surgical fellow Dr. Abebe Fitsum Argaw.

Outcome
22 Catheterizations
5 Surgeries
TOTAL 26 Children Treated

TREATED CHILDREN

# procedures	# children	Patient name	Age	Gender	Diagnosis	Intervention	Doctors
1	1	Mwenedata Ethan Devies	3y	M	PDA	Cath-Umbrella ADO I 005	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
2	2	Vwingeneye Delephine	10y	F	ASD	Cath-Umbrella ASD 14	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
3	3	Ikuzo Caura	5y	F	PDA	Cath-Umbrella KONAR 10-8	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
4	4	Gatesi Briane	4y	F	PDA	Cath-Umbrella Occlutech PDA 15	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago+ Dr. Havugarurema
5	5	Ruawiro Avirec	1.5y	M	VSD	Cath-Diagnostic	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
6	6	Umulisa Sadie	10m	F	PS	Cath-Balloon TYSHAK 10/40	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
7	7	Umubyeyi Kelia	1y	F	PS+PDA	Cath-Balloon TYSHAK 14/40	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
8		Umubyeyi Kelia	1y	F	PS+PDA	Surgery PDA Ligation	Dr. Yayehyirad Ejigu + Dr. Abebe Fitsum Argaw
9	8	Ingangi Rebero Alvin	3.5 y	M	PDA	Cath-Umbrella ADO II 06-04	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago +Dr. Havugarurema
10	9	Akera Daniela	4.5	F	PS	Cath-Balloon ATLAS 14/40+16/40	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
11	10	Iradukunda Armand	11m	M	PDA	Cath-Umbrella ADO II 05-04	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago +Dr. Akinhereye
12	11	Cyemezo Ihirwe	2y	F	VSD PHT	Cath-Diagnostic	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago + Dr. Murorunkwere
13	12	Ntwari Tinga Zane "Jay"	4y	M	AS	Cath-Balloon AltoSA -XL 14/40	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
14	13	Ineza Lena	1y	F	PDA	Cath-Umbrella ADO I 005	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
15	14	Mugisha Saidi	2.5 y	M	PDA	Cath-Umbrella ADO II 04-04	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago + Dr. Havugarurema
16	15	Shania Ihenoryimana	3y	F	PDA	Cath-Umbrella KONAR 10-8	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
17	16	Shami Ella	8y	M	PDA	Cath-Umbrella ADO II 06-04	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
18	17	Masengesho Jayden	2y	F	ASD PM VSD PHT	Cath-Diagnostic	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago +Dr. Akinhereye
19	18	Niyituzi Innocente	8y	M	PDA	Cath-Umbrella Occlutech PDA 10	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
20	19	Mutesi Vanessa	11y	F	PS	Cath-Balloon ATLAS 18/40	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago +Dr. Murorunkwere
21	20	Rwiririza Tako Rahl	11	F	PS	Cath-Balloon ATLAS 20/40	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
22	21	Munezero Kaneza Kevin	19	M	PS	Cath-Balloon ATLAS 24/40	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago
23	22	Umutoniwase Kevine		M	ASD VSD	Cath-Diagnostic	Dr. Sagi Assa + Dr. Gerard Misago + Dr. Havugarurema
24	23	IGANZE FRANK	1Y4m	M	AV	Surgery AV Canal repair	Dr. Yayehyirad Ejigu + Dr. Abebe Fitsum Argaw
25	24	AGANZE TETA MIA GIANNA		F	VSD	Surgery VSD Repair	Dr. Yayehyirad Ejigu + Dr. Abebe Fitsum Argaw
26	25	USANASE JESCA	8m	F	VSD	Surgery VSD+PDA Repair	Dr. Yayehyirad Ejigu + Dr. Abebe Fitsum Argaw
27	26	RUGWIRO TURIKUMWE AVIREC	1Y	M	VSD	Surgery VSD Repair	Dr. Yayehyirad Ejigu + Dr. Abebe Fitsum Argaw

PRE-MISSION SCREENING 2025









MISSION 2025











MISSION 2025







Report completed by:
SACH Representatives -
Ido Gutin, Director of Resource Development
Alexandra Lange, Grants & Development Associate

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IDO GUTIN
SIGNED ON BEHALF OF SAVE A CHILD'S HEART