



CHAIN
OF
HOPE
mending little hearts

SAVING LIVES
DURING THE
PANDEMIC



ANNUAL REVIEW 20/21



A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

I am delighted to report that the chain continues to work throughout this dreadful pandemic. Despite the year's challenges, Chain of Hope has remained committed to the most vulnerable of children across the world who need our help now, more than ever.

We have had to evolve new strategies to support many of our centres around the world in treating patients. Our team have been working tirelessly to transport vital life-saving supplies and equipment around the world whilst protecting the health care workers through the provision of the latest testing kits where necessary.

The charity's chain of volunteers continued to operate seamlessly during the height of lockdown with the transfer of emergency children to the Aswan Heart Centre and SJD Barcelona Children's Hospital.

The team could not have operated without the extended family, including our donors, partner hospitals, the dedicated staff and volunteer fundraisers who have continued to work tirelessly throughout the pandemic to help us continue to raise the vital funds needed for the survival of children in need.

Thank you all.

Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub OM, FRS
Founder and President of Chain of Hope

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Dear Friends,

The last year has been challenging for all and not least those many children around the world suffering from heart disease. However despite the obstacles, we are pleased to report that Chain of Hope managed to reach over 300 children and young adults in need of vital treatment during this year.



We have adapted our approaches to our beneficiaries supporting the treatment of patients in the following ways

- Flying patients across the world for emergency treatment.
- Providing life-saving cardiac equipment and supplies to the hospitals we have helped to establish so that they could continue to carry out procedures during the pandemic.
- Partnering with other international NGOs to fund surgeries for children in the Middle East.
- Partnering with other NGOs to continue missions where possible.

In the initial stages of the pandemic, Chain of Hope lent its support to the NHS with the loan of equipment to UK hospitals to enable them to expand their intensive care capacity and provide additional ultrasound devices.

We were also proud to support centres such as the Aswan Heart Centre with COVID-19 testing kits to keep their staff and patients safe. PPE equipment was sent internationally to hospitals during the pandemic.

We are enormously grateful to all our partners around the world who enable this work to continue and in particular to our

amazing Gala Ball Committee who, in the absence of being able to hold our highly popular annual fundraising Gala Ball in 2020, still managed to help us raise in excess of £1 million to save patients with heart disease through our 2020 virtual event.

We are proud of all these achievements during this unprecedented time. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the patients we have helped during this time.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support to the charity.

Emma Scanlan
Chief Executive

Gavin Wright
Chairman

FLYING CHILDREN FOR EMERGENCY SURGERY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Chain of Hope navigated ongoing travel restrictions and challenges brought on by the pandemic and successfully organised the emergency transfer of **13 children and young adults from nine countries** to three of our main partner centres across the world.

During the year, patients were transferred from Iraq, Kosovo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somaliland, Uganda, Jamaica and Haiti.



Three month old Mahir from Ethiopia



12 year old Mrema from Kenya



12 year old Rexhe from Kosovo

WORKING WITH SJD BARCELONA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TO SAVE LIVES

Chain of Hope's partnership with the **Sant Joan de Déu Children's Hospital in Barcelona** began in 2018, enabling us to **increase our capacity to treat more children suffering from heart disease.**

SJD Barcelona Children's Hospital continued to be a lifeline for these children during the pandemic by welcoming Chain of Hope patients in need of urgent care.

Three year old Ian from Rwanda

Ian was diagnosed with a congenital heart condition known as Tetralogy of Fallot, a condition which has four abnormalities that affect the crucial functions of the heart.

He needed urgent heart surgery to survive.

In February, our team flew Ian from Rwanda to Barcelona. After undergoing his pre-operative examinations, he had his open-heart surgery within a week.

Ian's surgery was successful and he returned to Rwanda a few weeks later to a warm welcome from his little sister.



SAVING LIVES AT THE ASWAN HEART CENTRE

During the year, Chain of Hope safely transferred 10 patients to the Aswan Heart Centre in Egypt.

One year old Noor from Baghdad in Iraq was one of the children flown to Egypt for urgent heart surgery.

Her parents sought help from Chain of Hope early in 2020, but then the onset of COVID-19 delayed our efforts to coordinate her transfer out of Iraq for surgery.

After months of waiting for airspace to re-open, visas and for operating slots to become available, Chain of Hope meticulously navigated the restrictions with airline travel and transferred Noor safely to Aswan.

Noor had emergency open-heart surgery at the Aswan Heart Centre and is back home in Iraq with a mended heart.

One year old Noor from Iraq, pictured here with her father and Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, is one of the children treated at the Aswan Heart Centre with the support of Chain of Hope.



ACTIVATING THE CHAIN TO SAVE BABY MICHAEL'S LIFE

Baby Michael from Ethiopia was diagnosed at birth with a heart condition known as Transposition of the Great Arteries. This defect meant he was born with his arteries the wrong way round and urgently needed surgery.

Chain of Hope flew emergency medicines out from London via a chain of volunteers to Ethiopia for Baby Michael.



We then funded an Interventional Cardiologist from the Aswan Heart Centre to fly urgently to Addis Ababa to perform a palliative procedure, stabilising baby Michael's condition for air travel.



After this first procedure, Michael was transported safely to the Aswan Heart Centre where he then underwent emergency open heart surgery.



Michael's surgery with the team in the Aswan Heart Centre went very smoothly. He has made a full recovery and safely returned home.



SAVING LIVES BY SUPPORTING CARDIAC CENTRES

At the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, Chain of Hope coordinated emergency shipments of cardiac supplies and equipment to the hospitals we have supported and established around the world to enable them to continue treating children with heart disease. The local teams who have been trained by Chain of Hope and other NGOs over the last 25 years were able to treat patients independently, a testament to our long term work of developing onsite cardiac skills and facilities around the globe.

Ethiopia

Chain of Hope supported the local team at the Cardiac Centre, Ethiopia with emergency supplies and medicines to carry out 54 cardiac procedures on children during the pandemic.

Chain of Hope is very proud of this team developed over the last 10 years, who were able to continue treating patients in need during COVID-19.

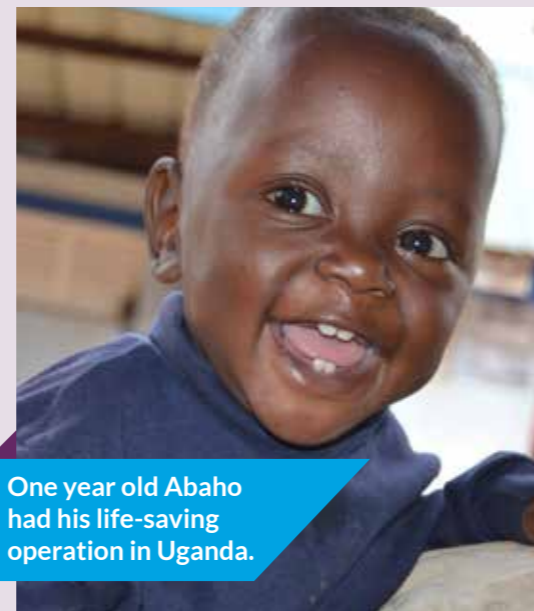
Two year old Kelifa is one of the 54 children saved during the pandemic in Ethiopia.



Uganda

Chain of Hope shipped emergency medical supplies including catheter devices for the local team to conduct their own local catheter mission treating 12 children.

Chain of Hope also contributed \$50,000USD to a joint Rotary grant with Gift of Life which enabled the team to perform heart surgery on a further 21 children and to purchase an anaesthetic machine for the catheter lab in the Uganda Heart Institute.



One year old Abaho had his life-saving operation in Uganda.

Egypt

Over the course of the year, Chain of Hope continued to provide support to the Aswan Heart Centre (AHC) by supplying and shipping life-saving cardiac consumables and equipment including heart valves, pacemakers and other medical devices. The team at the AHC performed highly skilled procedures on children and adults using these devices.



Seven year old Mohamed is one of the children who was saved with the use of devices shipped to Aswan by Chain of Hope.

Jamaica

In Jamaica, the charity shipped supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the cardiac team at the Jamaica Children's Heart Centre and continued to support the team with medical consumables to help save the lives of 48 children.



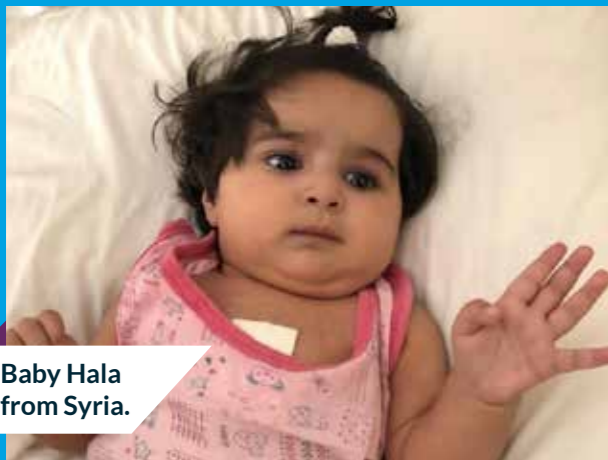
Four year old Matthew is one of 48 children who received life-saving surgery at the Jamaica Children's Heart Centre.



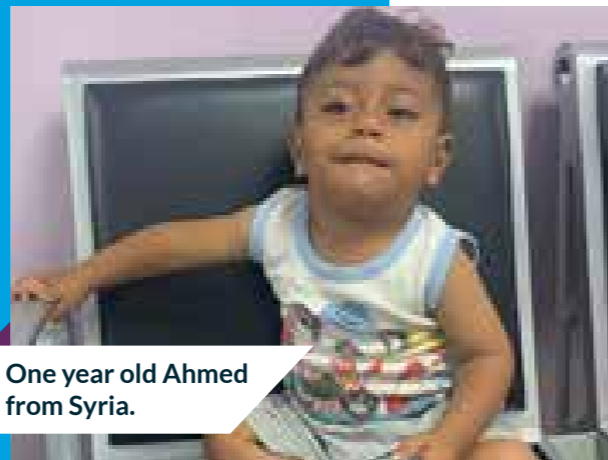
Six month old Khalid from Syria.



Four year old Malek from Lebanon.



Baby Hala from Syria.



One year old Ahmed from Syria.

SAVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Since 2015, Chain of Hope medical teams have been providing a lifeline for many refugee children living with heart disease in Lebanon and Jordan who do not have access to healthcare.

To respond to the global refugee crisis, the charity co-funded a project with Rotary Foundation and Gift of Life to treat 43 children who had been left further at risk due to the pandemic.

KAMAR'S STORY

Eight year old Syrian Kamar is one of the 40 children we helped to treat in Lebanon.

Kamar is the youngest of four siblings, her parents' only daughter. She lives with her family in a refugee camp in Lebanon after they fled the war in Syria five years ago.

Kamar was born with a serious heart defect and needed urgent surgical intervention which her parents could not afford.

Terrified that their only daughter would not survive, Kamar underwent surgery funded by our partnership with Gift of Life at the Hammoud Hospital, Lebanon.

Kamar had a successful surgery and can now live with a healthy heart and grow up to make a difference in her family.



PARTNERING TO CONDUCT LIFE-SAVING MISSIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC

In December 2020, Chain of Hope partnered with a surgical team from New York together with Gift of Life International to mobilise a medical mission to The Dominican Republic.

The volunteer medical team carried out 24 procedures over the course of one week, sharing knowledge and skills with the local cardiac team.

These are some of the children saved during that mission.



One year old, Bianny



Three month old, Yaira



Two year old, Alvaro



10 year old, Luz Maria



Seven year old, Yan Luis



10 month old, Dahianna

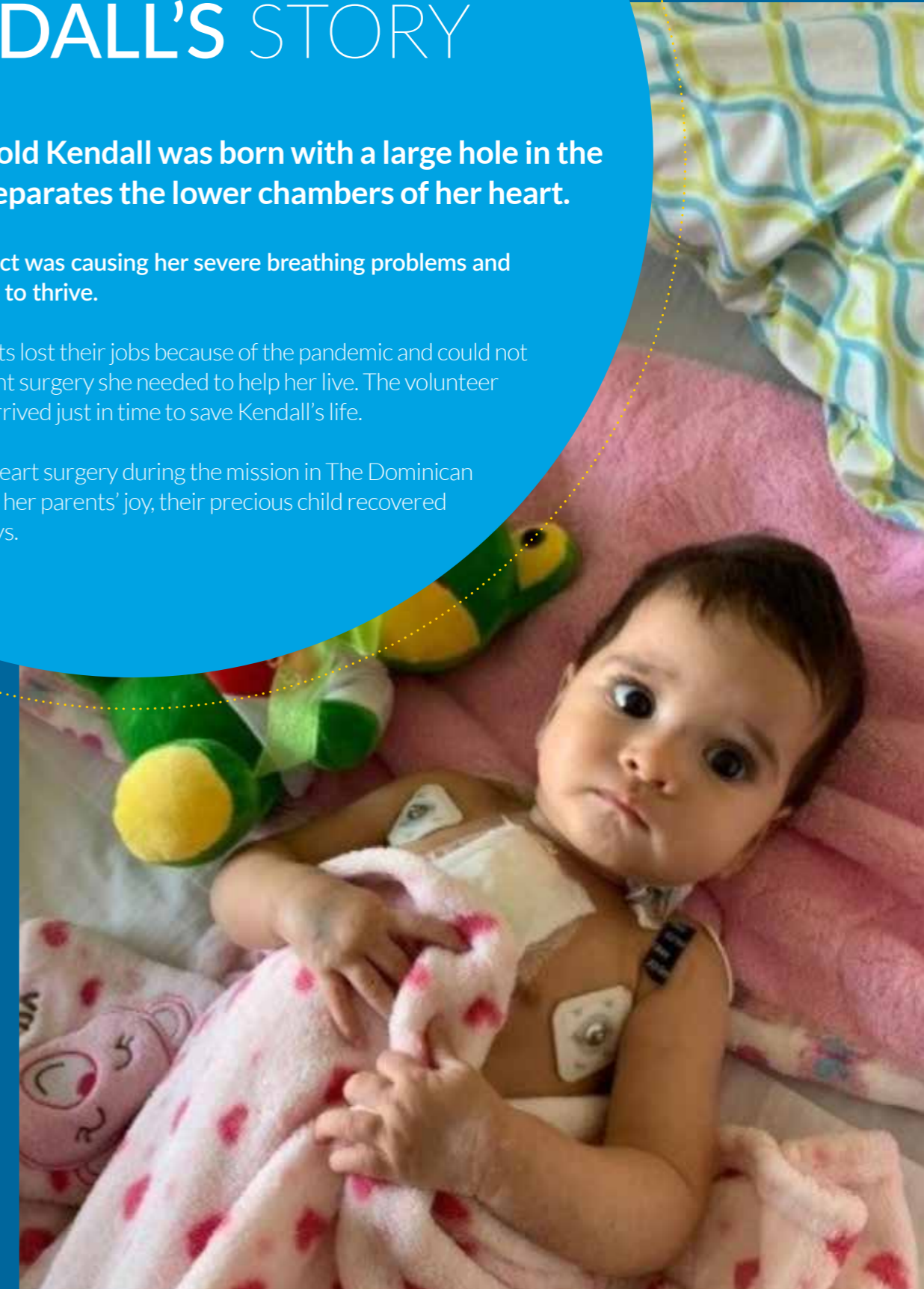
KENDALL'S STORY

Six month old Kendall was born with a large hole in the wall that separates the lower chambers of her heart.

Her heart defect was causing her severe breathing problems and she was failing to thrive.

Kendall's parents lost their jobs because of the pandemic and could not afford the urgent surgery she needed to help her live. The volunteer medical team arrived just in time to save Kendall's life.

She had open-heart surgery during the mission in The Dominican Republic and to her parents' joy, their precious child recovered within a few days.





WORKING TOWARDS A DEDICATED CARDIAC CENTRE IN RWANDA

Architect's design of the future cardiac centre in Rwanda

Chain of Hope is proud to support the Rwandan based charity 'The Rwanda Heart Care & Research Foundation' in its goal to create the first ever dedicated cardiac hospital in Rwanda.

The aim of the centre is to provide free cardiac treatment for the population of Rwanda together with urgent research into neglected cardiac diseases.

project. The concept and design (as seen above) was developed by Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub working closely with volunteer architect Julia Backhaus from Flux Architects.

Chain of Hope is co-funding the construction of the cardiac hospital which will be the first of its kind in the country. During this financial year, the charity donated over £500k towards the cost of construction for the first phase of this important

Going forward, Chain of Hope is partnering with other International NGOs and the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide equipment, training and curricula development for cardiovascular healthcare.



Architect's design of the future cardiac centre in Rwanda



SUPPORTING THE NHS

As the effects of Coronavirus grew and put more pressure on UK healthcare facilities, the charity loaned 60 syringe pumps to the Royal Brompton Hospital to help build intensive care capacity. We also responded to the crisis by delivering blood gas analysers to Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, to enable much needed cardiovascular scans on COVID-19 patients. At the same time, Chain of Hope loaned portable echo machines to the Salisbury District Hospital, which assisted the team to conduct quick scanning on COVID-19 patients admitted to the hospital.



FUNDRAISING DURING A PANDEMIC

During the initial lockdown, Chain of Hope relied heavily on community fundraisers to help keep the charity's work in people's hearts and continue to raise the vital funds needed to save children's lives.

As more events, such as the London Marathon, were cancelled due to the pandemic, we launched several appeals. Over 40 Chain of Hope supporters took on various challenges, together raising an incredible £104,000!



Gala Ball Committee Member Alia Nosseir taking part in a challenge.



Ball Committee

- Mrs Sherine Sawiris (Co-Chair)
- Mrs Dina Roushdi (Co-Chair)
- Mrs Maria Sukkar (Vice Chair)
- Mrs Cherine Helmy (Vice Chair)
- Countess Noemi Marone Cinzano
- Mrs Andrea Collins
- Ms Sara Hanna
- Dr Rita Ishak
- Mrs Widad Karaket
- Mrs Angela Kyte
- Mrs Elena Lavagni
- Mrs Jessica Lemarié-Pirès
- Mrs Lorenza de Liechtenstein Trapani
- Mrs Magda Mayr
- Mrs Najla Nabih
- Ms Alia Nosseir
- Mrs Naila Ramsay
- Ms Susan Sabet
- Mrs Sylvia Tadros
- Mrs Monica Thomas

At Home with Chain of Hope

In November 2020, it was not possible to hold our Annual Gala Ball. In its place, the charity launched its first ever virtual event, 'At Home with Chain of Hope', a virtual broadcast raising over 1 million pounds by engaging supporters from their homes!

The event was spearheaded by our hardworking volunteer Gala Ball Committee who together with members of the Corporate Advisory Group, produced a selection of amazing money-can't-buy prizes which were auctioned by the excellent Lord Archer during the one hour event.

The event was broadcast from a studio to guests worldwide and was hosted by Sky News presenter Jonathan Samuels, with entertainment from Rory Bremner.



Chain of Hope volunteers taking online bids during the virtual fundraiser.

Tribute to Dr Yehia and Mrs Mary Soliman

Chain of Hope mourns the passing of our long-serving supporters and friends, Dr Yehia and Mrs Mary Soliman.

Yehia and Mary played integral roles in the growth and success of the charity. Mary was a Gala Ball founding committee member and brought a special warmth and smile to everything she did.

We have lost important links in the chain. Yehia and Mary will forever be in our hearts.



Hi, I am Alex, I live in Cambridgeshire. When I was nine months old, I had a severe heart condition and I had a heart operation in London. The main reason I am cycling for this charity is to raise money to help them in their mission to save children around the world.

*Thank you,
Alex*

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE



The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance and the financial management of the charity, meeting on a quarterly basis to oversee Chain of Hope's activity. The trustees delegate responsibility for various areas of the charity to a series of committees who help the charity make transparent and robust decisions, of note are the Medical and Risk Committees.

The Medical Committee oversees the process for selecting patients and deciding which patients are accepted for treatment through the charity's child referral system.

The Risk Committee meets quarterly to review the charity's risks, raising key items for mitigation to the Board of Trustees. The charity's portfolio of policies and procedures is regularly reviewed as part of this mitigation process.

Board of Trustees

- Dr Gavin Wright
Chairman
- Professor Victor Tsang
Vice-Chairman
- Mr Jonathon Danos, MBE
- Professor Vibeke Hjortdal, R
- Professor Marc de Leval
Resigned 27th July 2020
- Dr Alan Magee
- Mrs Louise Perry
Treasurer
- Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, OM
Founder and President

DIVERSITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

Chain of Hope is fully committed to championing equality, diversity and inclusion. We strive to continuously learn how to increase the diversification of our network including our trustees, staff, volunteers and supporters.

The Board of Trustees has actively spent the last year aiming to diversify its membership and continues to welcome applicants from all backgrounds and ethnicities.

This year we diversified our current board with the addition of two new trustees who bring fresh perspective to guide our strategy, Mrs Louise Perry and Professor Vibeke Hjortdal.



Professor Vibeke Hjortdal, R
Cardiothoracic Surgeon

Vibeke first became involved with Chain of Hope in 2009 when she was invited to participate in a surgical mission to Jamaica.

Vibeke Hjortdal is Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet, Denmark, specialising in congenital heart diseases. She holds a PhD and is a Doctor of Medical Sciences. Professor Hjortdal has been knighted by the Queen of Denmark and is a member of the Order of the Dannebrog.



Mrs Louise Perry,
Treasurer

Louise is a chartered accountant with 30 years of experience in a Big Four audit firm and in the finance team of a pharmaceutical group.

Louise brings to the charity strong legal, commercial and risk awareness, which is critical to the strategic functioning of the charity now and in the future. Louise's awareness of financial processes and controls matched with her knowledge of charity accounting is an excellent asset for the charity.

Professor Marc de Leval

For more than 12 years, Professor de Leval was Vice-President and trustee advising the charity on governance and quality management of clinical operations. Professor de Leval led several missions to Jamaica where he gave his time to treat many children in need and train the local surgeons.

Although Professor de Leval has resigned from the Board of Trustees effective from 27th July 2020, he remains a valued Vice-President of the Charity. We are humbled to have such an internationally acclaimed surgeon supporting the charity.



TREASURER'S REPORT

In the 12 months to 31 March 2021, the charity raised £1.9m of funds, received government grants of £0.1m and incurred expenditure of £2.1m. £1.6m was spent directly on charitable activities, £0.2m on fundraising and £0.3m on support costs.

The charity carried out a cost review at the beginning of the pandemic and by furloughing staff and cutting costs it was able to reduce expenditure in line with income and keep the charity in a good financial shape.

For every £1 raised, 77p was spent on charitable activities, 9p on raising more funds and 14p on essential support for the charitable activities.



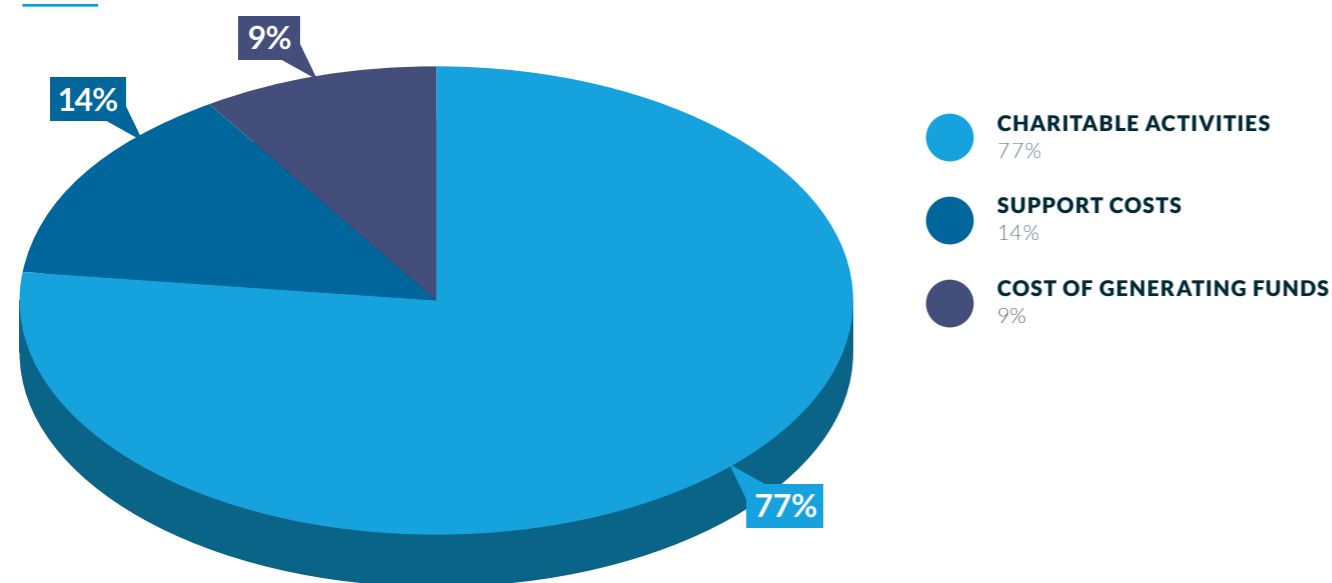
The fundraising environment is likely to remain challenging and contingency plans are being put in place in case a large fundraising event cannot be held in 2021 or is unlikely to be the best way of raising funds.

The charity will ensure that costs are carefully monitored as activity increases and that the cost base remains optimal. This will ensure that the charity keeps the necessary liquidity to maximise its continued aim of improving cardiac health.

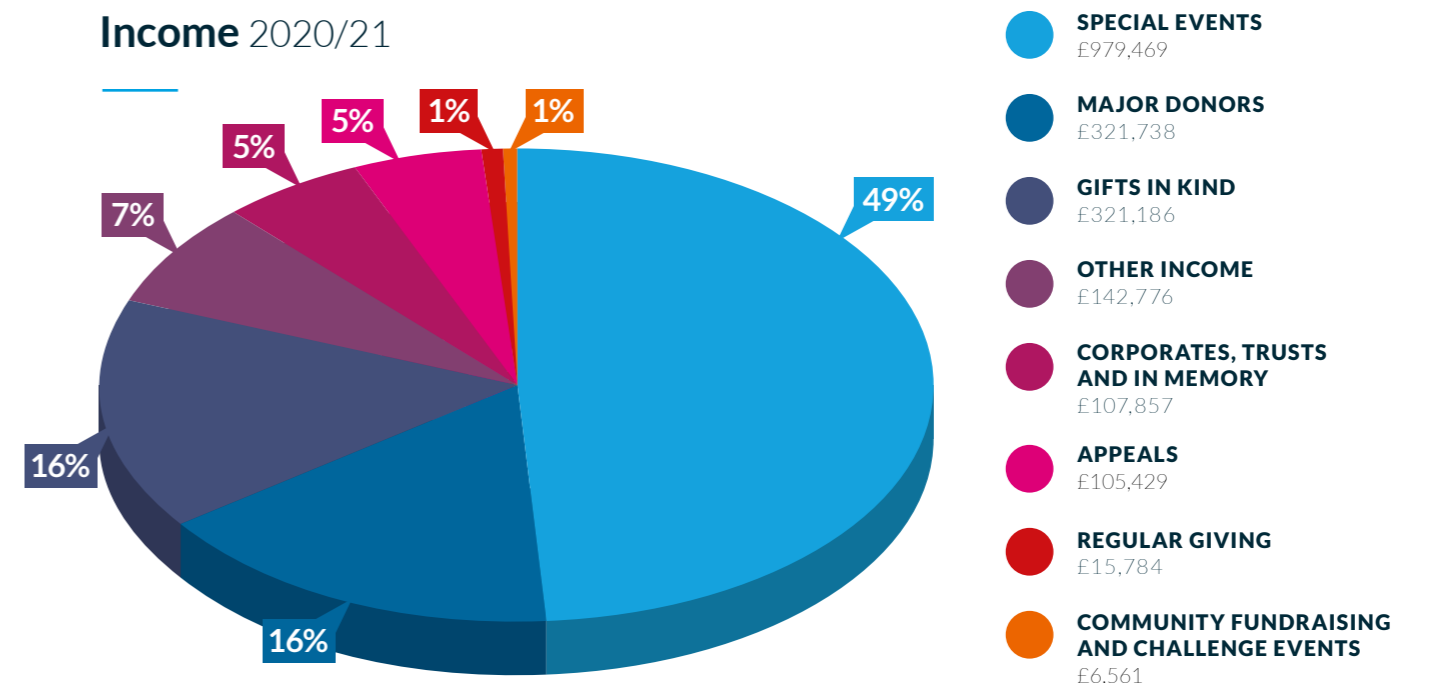
L. E. Perry

Mrs Louise Perry, Treasurer

Expenditure 2020/21



Income 2020/21



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of financial activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	324,699	1,397,940	1,722,639	3,875,755
Other trading activities	135,385	-	135,385	376,363
Investment income	380	-	380	10,974
Other income	142,396	-	142,396	-
Total income	602,860	1,397,940	2,000,800	4,263,092
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	297,198	-	297,198	979,531
Charitable activities:				
Overseas Activities	-	1,414,519	1,414,519	2,591,288
International Child Referral Programme	-	364,118	364,118	1,264,698
Total expenditure	297,198	1,778,637	2,075,835	4,835,517
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	305,662	(380,697)	(75,035)	(572,425)
Net gains / (losses)	(77,871)	-	(77,871)	(39,646)
Net Movement in funds	227,791	(380,697)	(152,906)	(532,779)
Transfer between funds	(224,970)	224,970	-	
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	1,357,208	1,481,143	2,838,351	3,371,130
Total funds carried forward	1,360,029	1,325,416	2,685,445	2,838,351

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2021

	2021	2021	2020	2020
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:				
Tangible assets		11,337		22,123
Current assets:				
Debtors	106,881		184,681	
Cash at bank and in hand	2,879,016		2,992,608	
	2,985,897		3,177,289	
Liabilities:				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(311,789)		(361,061)	
Net current assets / (liabilities)		2,674,108		2,816,228
Total assets less current liabilities		2,685,445		2,838,351
Total net assets / (liabilities)		2,685,445		2,838,351
Funds				
Restricted funds		1,325,416		1,481,143
Unrestricted funds:				
General funds	1,360,029		1,357,208	
Total unrestricted funds		1,360,029		1,357,208
Total funds		2,685,445		2,838,351

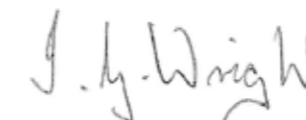
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

For the year ending 31st March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. However, an audit is required in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

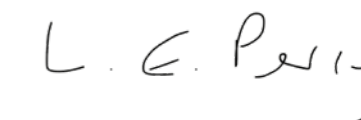
Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of the accounts.

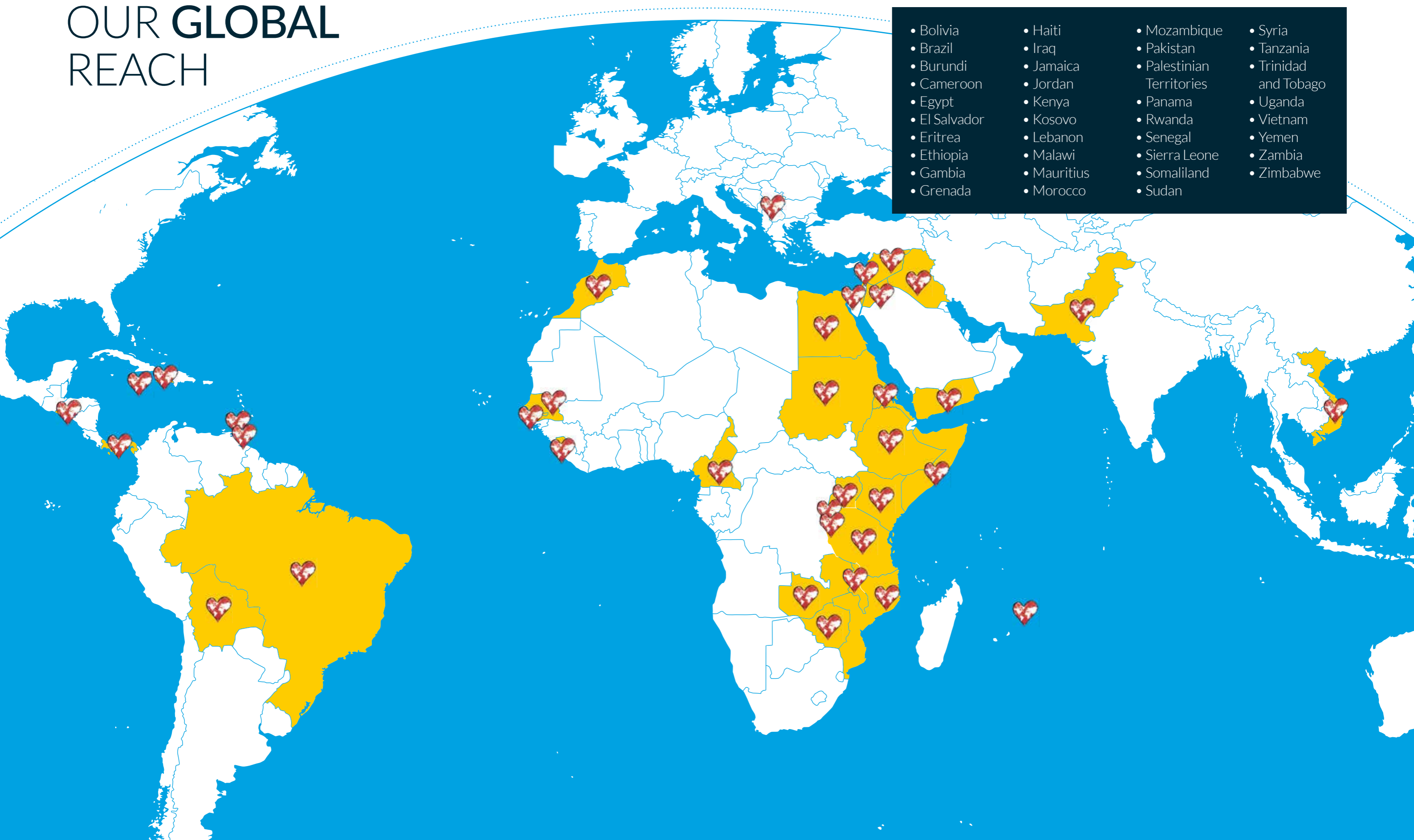
Gavin Wright
Chairman



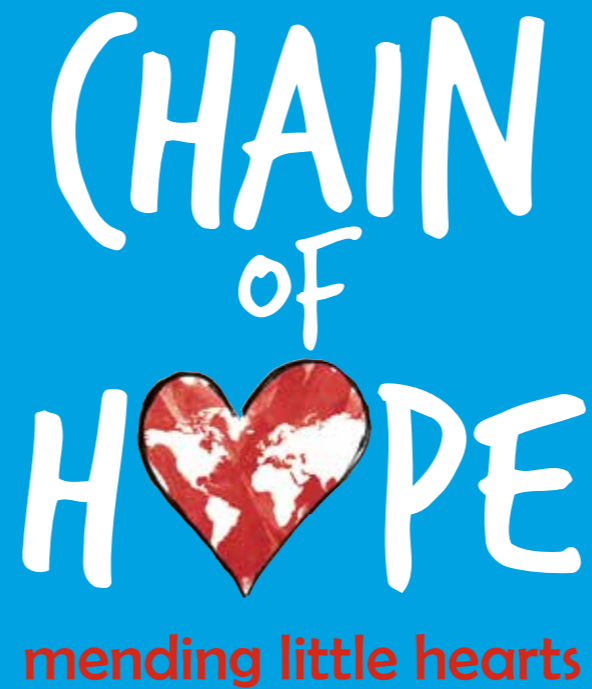
Louise Perry
Treasurer



OUR GLOBAL REACH



- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Grenada
- Haiti
- Iraq
- Jamaica
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Kosovo
- Lebanon
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Pakistan
- Palestinian Territories
- Panama
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Somaliland
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tanzania
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



Chain of Hope

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Founder and President:

Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub OM, FRS

Vice President:

Professor Marc de Leval

Honorary Vice Presidents:

Mrs Sherine Sawiris

Mrs Dina Roushdi

Princess Chantal of Hanover

Countess Noemi Marone Cinzano