



# China

China is the world's most populous country and one of the fastest growing economies. While this presents great potential for medical advances, it also sets the conditions for enormous disparities. The opportunity for a child from a rural village born with heart disease is practically nonexistent, whereas a middle-income child from the city has access to some of the best medical care in the world. Since 1999, Children's HeartLink has been working with partners in China to close this gap. In 2016, our four partner hospitals – including two Children HeartLink Centers of Excellence – served more than 8,000 children. We are working to double the number of partner hospitals over the next five years. Our approach is built around sustainable health systems strengthening, with a focus on increasing clinical and administrative capacity and supporting advanced medical education. Our investment in China, direct and in-kind, has surpassed US \$4 million. Children's HeartLink's commitment to China's growing pediatric cardiac care infrastructure is strong and will remain so until all children have the care they deserve.

## Partner Hospitals

### West China Hospital

Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence  
Chengdu  
*Partner since 2006*  
Children Served\* (2016): 2,600

### Fist Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University

Kunming  
*Partner since 2014*  
Children Served\* (2016): 500

### First Hospital of Lanzhou University

Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence  
Lanzhou  
*Partner since 1999*  
Children Served\* (2016): 3,560

### TEDA International Cardiovascular Hospital

Tianjin  
*Partner since 2017*  
Children Served\* (2016): 1,616

### Volunteer training partner

- The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto
- University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital
- Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri

\*based on clinic visits

## The Need

- 1 out of 100 babies is born with congenital heart disease
- 165,000 babies are born with congenital heart disease each year
- 20,515 children under the age of 5 died from congenital heart disease in 2016 – this represents 1.8 million years of life lost
- Another 1.3 million youth continue to live with congenital heart disease
- There are fewer than 2 cardiologists per 100,000 people in China, even fewer that have specialized training in pediatrics. Nearly all are concentrated in urban centers.

## Our Vision

Our vision is a world in which all children have access to the cardiac care they need. In China, our goal is to develop eight Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence by 2030. To achieve this, we are establishing long-lasting partnerships with local stakeholders — including providers, clinic administrators and government officials — to increase awareness of the need for pediatric cardiac care. Our focus is on building clinical and organizational skills, and increasing support for the inclusion of universal access to pediatric cardiac care into China's health care system.

## Congenital Heart Disease

Every year around the world, 1 in 100 children is born with a birth defect within the structure of their heart. This condition is called congenital heart disease. By 2030, it is estimated that congenital anomalies will be among the top five causes of child death. Cardiac anomalies are the most common of all birth defects, and 70% of them are surgically correctable. These children can live full, productive lives if they get skilled care. Unfortunately, 90% of children with heart disease live in regions of the world without access to pediatric cardiac care; far too many of them will die preventable deaths.

## Children's HeartLink

Since 1969 Children's HeartLink has been dedicated to caring for children with heart disease. We invest in long-term, multi-phase partnerships to ensure greater access to pediatric cardiac care. Thanks to our expanding team of medical volunteers, over 5,000 local doctors, nurses and technicians are now more equipped to care for children with heart disease. On an annual basis, over 96,000 children receive care at our partner hospitals and programs around the world. Our goal is to develop 50 Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence by 2030.

**We can't change the incidence of congenital heart disease. But with your help, we can reach more children who need lifesaving care.**



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December 2017

## Children's HeartLink Partner Hospitals in China

### TEDA International Cardiovascular Hospital

Children's HeartLink's partnership with TEDA began in 2017, in partnership with The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and focuses on improving the multidisciplinary approach to pediatric cardiac care, developing a team of pediatric specialists, quality and patient safety, and parent education. This public nonprofit hospital opened in 2003 and specializes in the treatment and management of congenital heart disease. It is located in the Binhai New Area of Tianjin. Since 2003 more than 112,000 surgical operations and interventional procedures have been performed on adult and pediatric patients. The hospital has an active charitable program that treats children from provinces and autonomous regions throughout China.



### First Hospital of Lanzhou University

Children's HeartLink's partnership with First Hospital of Lanzhou University (FHLU) is Children's HeartLink's longest running partnership. FHLU is a public hospital that serves the 26 million people of Gansu province – one of the poorest and least developed in China. A key objective for FHLU is the development of a regional referral, treatment and training network for northwest China. In 2015, FHLU was designated a Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence.

### First Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University

Since 2013, Children's HeartLink has worked with the cardiac program at First Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University (FAHKMU) to increase access to quality pediatric cardiac services for children born with heart disease in Yunnan province. As one of China's poorest provinces, Yunnan, with a population of 46 million people, has few centers capable of treating children born with congenital heart disease. As a result, many children and their families are forced to travel far to seek treatment. Children's HeartLink's partnership with FAHKMU is focusing on improving the quality of care, expanding the surgical capacity of the program and building an interdisciplinary team of pediatric specialists.

### West China Hospital

West China Hospital (WCH) became Children's HeartLink second partner in China in 2006. This 5,000-bed public hospital is one of the largest hospitals in the world, yet still has a shortage of specialists trained in diagnosing and treating children with heart disease. With their mentor team from The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada, WCH has focused on developing an effective interdisciplinary care model, strengthening postoperative care, strategic planning, and designing in-house and distance-learning training opportunities. WCH now offers fellowships in telemedicine, pediatric cardiology and cardiac critical care.

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