

Malaysia



With a population of 32 million, Malaysia is the smallest country where Children's HeartLink works. The Government of Malaysia guarantees coverage of pediatric cardiac care to children with heart disease at the national hospital and one private hospital, Institut Jantung Negara, a Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence. Despite the protection from financial burden, children are dying while waiting for care. Children's HeartLink is committed to working with local providers to strengthen diagnostic and treatment capacity, and increase access to pediatric cardiac care across Malaysia. In 2018, Serdang Hospital in Sepang established a partnership with Children's HeartLink.

Partner Hospitals

Institut Jantung Negara

Children's HeartLink Center of Excellence
Kuala Lumpur
Partner since 2007
Children Served* (2019): 8,200

Serdang Hospital

Sepang
Partner since 2018
Children Served* (2019): 5,700

Volunteer training partner

- Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham, England

*Data was collected pre-pandemic (in 2019) based on clinic visits.



The Need

- 1 out of 100 babies is born with congenital heart disease
- 5,000 babies are born with congenital heart disease each year, two-thirds of whom will require surgery in the first year of life
- 400 children under the age of 5 died from congenital heart disease in 2016, representing 34,000 years of life lost
- Only three facilities provide pediatric cardiac care for all Malaysian children
- Over 25,000 youth are living with congenital heart disease

Our Vision

Our vision is a world in which all children have access to the cardiac care they need. In Malaysia, our goal is to develop three 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 Malaysia'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. It is the seventh leading cause of death under 1 year of age. 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 build centers of excellence in pediatric cardiac care. Our goal is to develop 35 Children's HeartLink Centers of Excellence by 2030. In 2019, over 177,000 children were served at our partner hospitals, more than ever before. Because the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed travel and in-person training in 2020, we increased remote training to ensure our partners continue to get the support they need. More than 2,800 medical professionals around the world have benefited from remote training we've provided in conjunction with our volunteers. Our Centers of Excellence in India and Malaysia led a series of remote training sessions for 2,300 from 14 countries in Southeast Asia.



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Children's HeartLink Partner Hospitals in Malaysia

Institut Jantung Negara

Institut Jantung Negara (IJN) is located in the national capital of Kuala Lumpur and is widely recognized as a regional leader in pediatric cardiac care. IJN served 8,200 children just last year. The program is committed to patient-centered care and to ensuring access throughout Malaysia and across the region. IJN supports professional development and training programs in Malaysia and abroad, in countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam. With Children's HeartLink support, IJN offers fellowships in pediatric cardiac services for medical professionals from low- and middle-income countries.



Serdang Hospital

Our newest partner in Malaysia, Serdang Hospital is a government-funded hospital in the western state of Selangor. It serves roughly 570,000 citizens throughout the region and includes the city of Putrajaya, the federal administrative center of Malaysia. The hospital is designated as a center that provides affordable, quality treatment for heart patients. Medical volunteers from Birmingham Children's Hospital are the primary trainers and mentors for the staff at Serdang Hospital.



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