



HEART TEAM AFRICA FOUNDATION (HTAF)

1.0 Introduction

Owing to urbanization and sedentary life-style adoption, several non-communicable disease (NCD) risk factors are increasingly widespread in African communities and are postulated to be the drivers of the rapidly growing cardiovascular disease (CVD) burden in the region. Considering the current trajectory, NCDs, which already pose a major health and development challenge to humankind are projected to overtake communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases combined as the leading cause of mortality in the sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region by 2030.

In view of the above, JKCI is considering to establish a Foundation for the purpose of expanding patients support, community awareness, resource mobilization, medical research advancement, and capacity building. To achieve the aforementioned purpose, enhance accountability and transparency, an independent Organisation by the name of Heart Team Africa Foundation (HTAF) was registered on September, 2023.

2.0 Overview of the Problem and JKCI Initiatives

Cardiovascular disease in children is a problem in our country, Tanzania, and in sub-Saharan Africa in general. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it is estimated that over 1 million children have cardiovascular diseases. These diseases can have severe consequences for the overall health and well-being of children, leading to increased morbidity and mortality rates. Factors such as limited access to healthcare facilities and inadequate awareness about preventive measures contribute to the high prevalence of cardiovascular diseases in this population.

JKCI, as a specialized cardiovascular hospital, plans to treat approximately 300 children per year with these problems, depending on the complexity of the problem. The hospital aims to provide comprehensive and specialized care to these children, including diagnostic testing, medical management, and surgical interventions. Additionally, JKCI is committed to raising awareness about cardiovascular diseases in children through community outreach programs and educational campaigns to help prevent the onset of these conditions.

JKCI alone cannot successfully achieve this number of children for treatment per year; it made initiatives to have collaboration and partners who join hands together through camps that are conducted each year. JKCI collaborators and partners, namely: Save a Heart's Child, Mending Kids, Madaktari Africa, King Salman, Muntada Aid, Mending

Kids, Little Heart's, Cardio Start, Open Heart International, and Collage of Surgeons in East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), PanAfrican Cardiac Society (PASCAR), These organizations and institutions work together to improve access to cardiac care and save lives in Africa.

In a year, JKCI is able to conduct more than 20 camps specifically for these children with cardiovascular diseases. The camps aim at conducting diagnoses, treatments, and surgeries, all of which are expensive and that most Tanzanian families are not able to afford. Through these collaborations, JKCI has been able to cover the costs of medical procedures and ensure that no child is denied access to life-saving treatments due to financial constraints. One camp can serve more than 25 children by conducting surgeries and treatments. The partnership and collaborations save approximately 40% of the JKCI budget. This has allowed JKCI to allocate those funds towards expanding their outreach programs and providing additional medical services to a larger number of children in need.

3.0 Gap Identification

By establishing a foundation, JKCI will be able to tap into additional resources and expertise from its partners, allowing for a more comprehensive and impactful approach to addressing the identified problem. This collaborative effort will also help in leveraging collective knowledge and experiences, fostering innovation, and increasing the likelihood of long-term success in achieving JKCI's vision and mission. This foundation will have the role of mobilizing funds to subsidize the JKCI budget deficit, and ensuring that all necessary treatments and resources are available.

It was observed that most of the organizations and individuals are willing to support JKCI initiatives in the management of cardiac disease. These individuals and organizations are scared of channelling their funds and support through government systems, as they have a feeling that their funds will not go directly to the intended population, and hence there will be no impact. They are seeking alternative avenues, such as a foundation, to ensure that their support reaches the intended beneficiaries and makes a meaningful difference. This highlights the importance of transparent and accountable systems in order to gain the trust and confidence of potential supporters. By implementing such systems, the Foundation aims to ensure that donors have full visibility into how their funds are being utilized. This not only builds trust but also allows for effective monitoring and evaluation of the impact achieved, ultimately fostering a culture of transparency and accountability within the organization.

Low awareness about the risks of cardiovascular disease to children under 5 years, HTAF will conduct outreach and awareness programs that will emphasize a good lifestyle and the management of cardiovascular diseases. These programs will educate parents and caregivers about the importance of early detection and intervention, as well as provide them with resources and support to ensure their children lead healthy lives. By targeting this age group, HTAF aims to prevent future

cases of cardiovascular disease in children and reduce the burden on the nation's healthcare system.

Due to the low economy of the country, most Tanzanian families are not able to afford the cost of cardiovascular treatments. Through resource mobilization, the Foundation will enable Tanzanian families to access cardiovascular treatment that was unaffordable to them. This will not only improve the health outcomes of individuals but also contribute to the overall well-being of the Tanzanian population. Furthermore, by providing affordable cardiovascular treatments, the Foundation aims to reduce the burden on the healthcare system and promote a healthier society.

4.0 Resource Mobilization Plan

It is estimated that the cost of treatment for one child at JKCI is TZS 6 million up to TZS 8 million, depending on the complexity of the problem. This cost covers all medications, diagnostics, and surgery. The cost also includes post-operative care and follow-up visits to ensure the child's full recovery.

As a foundation, we want to make sure that enough funds are raised to cover as many children as possible. The foundation understands the financial burden that families may face when seeking treatment for their children at JKCI. Therefore, we strive to raise funds to provide financial assistance and ensure that no child is denied access to the necessary medical care due to a lack of funds. Our goal is to make a positive impact on the lives of as many children as possible by alleviating the financial stress associated with their treatment.

5.0 About HTAF

Established in 2015, Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) faces challenges in providing and accessing Cardiovascular care due to the increasing prevalence of Cardiovascular Diseases (CVDs). JKCI established Heart Team Africa Foundation (HTAF) under a Non-Governmental Organization Act, No. 24 to enhance patient support, community awareness, resource mobilization, medical research advancement, capacity building, accountability, and transparency on management of CVDs. The HTAF is crucial for JKCI's efforts in combating cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) in Tanzania and Africa, promoting prevention, early detection, and effective management through innovative health solutions and research.

6.0 Vision

To become a leading platform fostering transformation of cardiovascular care to underserved communities in Tanzania and beyond.

7.0 Mission

Promote the prevention, early detection, and effective management of cardiovascular diseases through innovative and feasible health solutions impactful research and capacity building.

8.0 Foundation Activities

- a) Raising awareness - intends to conduct extensive awareness campaigns to educate the public about cardiovascular diseases, their risk factors, and preventive measures.
- b) Conducting training and education - the foundation is actively promoting training for healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and non-clinical staff, to improve their knowledge and skills in managing cardiovascular diseases.
- c) Conducting research and advocacy - The foundation will collaborate with universities and organizations to conduct research on cardiovascular diseases in Tanzania and Africa, empowering healthcare workers and identifying risk factors for improved treatment.
- d) Conducting community outreach programs - The foundation is committed to partnering with local community-based organizations, religious institutions, and local leaders to implement targeted interventions promoting cardiovascular health.
- e) Capacity Building - The foundation is collaborating with healthcare institutions and the government to enhance and improve cardiovascular care capacity.
- f) Collaboration with Government and NGOs - The foundation plans to collaborate with government agencies and NGOs to enhance resource utilization, share best practices, and coordinate comprehensive strategies to combat cardiovascular diseases.
- g) To influence policy makers - The foundation actively works with policymakers and stakeholders at regional, national, and international levels to advocate for policies that prioritize cardiovascular health.
- h) Promoting use of telemedicine and mobile health - The foundation plans to utilize telemedicine and mobile health technologies to enhance healthcare

accessibility in remote areas, enabling remote consultations, patient monitoring, and timely interventions.

- i) To develop mobile health applications - The foundation plans to create user-friendly mobile applications for cardiovascular health, offering tools for risk assessment, medication reminders, and healthy lifestyle tips.
- j) Conducting school-based well-being programs - The foundation plans to create interactive programs for schools and universities to educate children and adolescents about heart health, including age-appropriate workshops, physical activity initiatives, and healthy eating campaigns.