

COMPLEMENTARY INTERVENTIONS COMPLETION

Complementing Compassion's core programs

THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING OPEN-HEART SURGERY FOR KINI

Location: Chennai, India

Start date: 2009/10 financial year

Completion date: 2009/10 financial year

Program code: BD-011120

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Context

Kini Akter was born with multiple heart malformations known as Tetralogy of Fallot. It is a congenital defect that affects blood flow through the heart to the lungs, resulting in poor oxygenation of the blood. This restricted Kini's growth and development throughout her early stages of life. When Kini was registered with Compassion in 2006, her symptoms included distension of her belly, clubbing of her fingers and toes and a blue tinge to her lips and gums. Without treatment, Kini was unlikely to survive.

Initial medical examinations led to two operations in August and October 2006, in which arteries from Kini's arms were grafted to the arteries in her lungs. This allowed better oxygenation of her blood, making a significant improvement to her overall health, and subsequent visits to her home in Dhaka, Bangladesh, showed that this little girl was getting a new lease of life. However, more treatment was needed. This intervention was to provide for a third and final operation to completely repair the malformations of Kini's heart and allow her to live a full, healthy life.

Original Project Objectives

The objective of this intervention was to provide Kini with life-saving surgery. This surgery is not available in Bangladesh, so the intervention allowed Kini, her father and a Compassion staff member to travel from Dhaka to Chennai, India, for the operation. All pre- and post-operative medical treatment, accommodation and travel expenses were included as part of the intervention.



BANGLADESH

Actual Project Outcomes

Staff from the Compassion India office liaised with hospital administration to book the surgery and complete all necessary paperwork, and coordinated with staff from the Compassion Bangladesh office to organise travel and accommodation for Kini, her father and the accompanying Compassion staff member.

In August 2009, Kini, her father and Compassion staff left Dhaka for Chennai.

Kini's surgery took place on 27 August 2009 at the Madras Institute of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (MIOT) Hospital in Chennai. MIOT is recognised as one of India's leading trauma hospitals and contains world class facilities in the fields of joint replacement surgery, orthopaedics and trauma care. MIOT also has specialised centres for nephrology, thoracic and cardiovascular care, neurology and neurosurgery, and paediatric surgery. Kini's surgery was performed by Dr Robert Coelho [M.S.M.Ch.], Director and Chief of Paediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery.

Compassion Bangladesh reported that the surgery was successful and free of any complications. After approximately two weeks' recovery in MIOT's Intensive Care Unit, Kini was discharged from the hospital and allowed to return home to complete her recovery and resume her everyday life.

Thanks to your generous contribution, Kini is now fully recovered and says her life has been transformed. She now actively participates in Compassion's program and joins in many activities that she previously could not enjoy, including group games. The physical symptoms that she has struggled with since birth have also begun to ease, and Kini and her family are overwhelmed by the changes in her health.



BENEFICIARIES

INTERVIEW WITH KINI

Please tell us about your family.

I am Kini Akter. I am 13 years old. I have a father, mother and three sisters. My father's name is Rafiqul Islam, my mother's name is Fatima Begum. My sisters are Hamid, five years old, Rupali, who is nine years old and Shefali, who is 11.



What was your life like before this surgery was done?

My heart was very bad. I could not run or play games with the other children and it was hard to go to school and do normal activities.

How is your life different now?

My life is totally changed. I am very healthy—I can hardly believe that I can do all of these things. I am physically strong enough to attend all the planned activities both at school and at the Compassion Azampure Child Development Centre.

Have you experienced any spiritual change through this surgery?

I am a living testimony to the goodness of God. I pray every time before we go to sleep and pray also when going to school, because every joy in my life comes from God. I always remember God's miracle that brought my life to normal. My parents also appreciate very much what Compassion has done for us.

What will this mean for your future?

Now I know that my future is bright because of what God has done for me. I know that God provides. After seeing what has happened to my life, everyone in my family starts to believe that the future is good when you believe in God.

What would you like to say to those people who made this surgery possible?

My life has been changed. I had no hope for the future before but now I have found the light of hope in Jesus. I cannot find a way of expressing how grateful I am but I pray that all those who made it possible will be rewarded by God. They have helped me—I was treated like a queen, yet I had nothing. I know that God loves me. May God keep, strengthen and give them more blessings.

INTERVIEW WITH JAMES BAROI

Director of Azampure Child Development Centre

Please tell us your name and how long you have worked in this centre.

My name is James Baroi. I have been working in this centre as the director for one year and six months.

Please tell us a little about Kini's family. How has this surgery helped them?

Kini's father is a very poor man. He works as a day labourer and his family is below the poverty level. They earn very little money and struggle to feed their children. It was totally impossible for them to pay for the treatment of Kini.

Now, by the grace of God, she is totally healed. Many in the community could not believe when she came back from India, with such a smile that was full of life and hope. She is a testimony to our community of what God can do in the lives of those who trust in Him.

Kini's life has changed a great deal. Her heart problem is cured completely and she is attending both the Compassion program and school. Her school performance has improved even more than before.

What spiritual changes have you seen through this surgery?

It is evident to everyone that Kini and her mother and sisters regularly attend church services and pray to God even though they are a Muslim family. They believe that He is a God who hears and answers prayer. He uses His people to help others. We have all increased our prayers and our trust in God more than ever before. Kini is a living testimony to the people of this community.

How would you describe the impact of this work to those who made it possible?

Words alone cannot describe to people what has happened. They have helped to make sure that this noble activity was implemented and only God knows the full impact this has made. Kini was living a life of hopelessness, without any feeling that she would ever experience a life free from this terrible disease, but now she is healthy and happy.

I am only grateful, and ask that the Lord bless abundantly whoever has contributed to give Kini her life back. I want to express my gratitude to those who made it possible. It is always important to provide our children with a happy and healthy life. Thank you.

Thank you for your generosity toward Kini and her family. Through your intervention, her life has been transformed. The change in her health has had a tremendous impact on her family, friends and the wider community, and will continue to be an example of God's grace in their everyday lives.

Thank you for partnering with Compassion to release children from poverty in Jesus' name.

Please note that photos featured in this report were taken following Kini's third surgery, and feature Kini and various family members.

