



# **SOCIAL REPORT 2020**

**ADVANCE INFORMATION  
2021**



**Bambino Gesù**  
FONDAZIONE



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to present the new Social Report 2020, which illustrates the activities carried out by the Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus for the benefit of the Paediatric Institute's growth projects, with a preview of the main initiatives that will be concretely implemented during 2021.

2020 was a difficult year because of the Pandemic: the health emergency put a strain on the national health system but, at the same time, it brought the values of competence and social responsibility back to centre stage.

In this regard, the Social Report is a valuable tool to share projects and objectives that are particularly close to my heart, since I have the honour of chairing the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù and the Foundation by the same name. A human and professional journey of an entire community that involves a job out of the ordinary, given the responsibility, strength and humility that it implies.

During 2020, thanks to the efforts of the Fondazione Bambino Gesù, we have been able to increase the support to the Paediatric Scientific Research, healthcare projects, the implementation of new facilities and technological devices, as well as the hospitality that does not discriminate against anyone and opens its arms to all children in need of care and their families. I am also referring in particular to humanitarian children without any form of healthcare from more than 40 countries around the world. There is also support for international actions aimed at guaranteeing healthcare, as well as developing specific train-

ing programmes for medical and nursing staff on site - through the School of Health platform - in the countries where the Paediatric Association operates.

We have a lot of new projects that we hope to make a reality. These include the Paediatric Palliative Care Centre and the Residence for the Treatment of Eating Disorder Patients. The Paediatric Palliative Care Centre will be a space entirely dedicated to the assistance and care of patients who, unfortunately, cannot return home immediately, after admission to hospital, because they require highly specialised care or need their parents to have acquired all the necessary skills to take care of them. A place to accompany children, adolescents and their families during every stage of their illness.

The Residence for the treatment of eating disorder patients will be dedicated to hosting people of paediatric age who have been discharged from the Hospital but who need an appropriate treatment course that helps them change their behaviours and adopt solutions for managing their emotional stresses that are not harmful to their health, re-establishing a balanced eating behaviour and a gradual return to active life.

This daily commitment translates into a real mission, which sees the Paediatric Institute and the Foundation working together, as a great team, to give attention and the best possible care to those who rely on our facilities.

*Mariella Enoc*





# ABOUT US

## NAME OF THE INSTITUTION

Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus

## TAX ID

97531780589

## REGISTERED OFFICE

Roma, Passeggiata del Gianicolo, snc -  
c/o Villino Sion

## HEADQUARTERS

Roma, Viale di Villa Pamphili, 100

## WEBSITE

[www.fondazionebambinogesù.it](http://www.fondazionebambinogesù.it)

# HISTORY OF THE FOUNDATION

In 1996, the “Cari Bambini” Foundation was founded by Pope John Paul II, dedicated to supporting the hospital care of the children of the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, established in 1869 and now a Scientific Institute for Research, Hospitalization and Healthcare (I.R.C.S.). On 4 September 2000, the Foundation acquired new articles of association and the name of “Fondazione Bambino Gesù”. Based in the Vatican City State, the Foundation established its operations in Italy with a secondary office, which has allowed it to pursue its mission; its humanitarian initiatives to support the assistance and research carried out by the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù; its aid to children in need of hospital care not covered by the Italian National Health Service.

With the establishment of its secondary office, the Foundation has been regis-

tered since 2008 in the Register of legal entities at the Rome Prefecture and in the Non-Profit Register at the Lazio Regional Directorate under the current name, Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus.

In November 2015, the Foundation completely renewed its Governing Board, which approved the new Articles of Association geared towards transparency in the Institution’s operations.

As of 2020, the Foundation will have a new Board of Directors consisting of: Mariella Enoc (Chairman), Massimiliano Atelli, Pierluigi Betturri, Maite Bulgari, Ferruccio De Bortoli, Moroello Diaz Della Vittoria Pallavicini, Giuseppe Mascarucci.

The economic activities of the Foundation are monitored by the Board of Statutory Auditors.

The Foundation’s financial statements are certified by the auditing firm Deloitte.





# MISSION AND VALUES

**Follow and support the efforts of doctors, researchers, health professionals and those who work every day to ensure a better quality of life for children and their families.**

The Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus, in the context of its genesis and institutional aims, is a non-profit organization and directs its initiatives and activities:

- to the promotion and support of scientific research of the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, providing a set of resources particularly aimed at supporting the scope of projects with a strong medical-scientific connotation, in the context of the Hospital's IRCCS structure (Scientific Institute for Research, Hospitalization and Healthcare);
- to support the development of the healthcare provided by the Hospital to Italian and foreign minors who are disadvantaged due to their physical, psychic, economic, social or family conditions, in view of the complexity of the pressing requests for paediatric help and care that come from all over the world, often finding only in the Hospital the adequacy of means, resources, skills and diagnostic, therapeutic and surgical options that would otherwise not be possible.





The following values guide the work of the Foundation:

## **INTERNATIONAL SCOPE.**

The commitment to give full support to collaborations and synergies that are based on international agreements for research and treatment is an important area of operation for the Foundation. It operates with an eye increasingly focused and oriented towards international scenarios, aiming to collect attention and resources from the most qualified and authoritative entities in the field of international donations. These, in turn, are intent on enhancing and supporting serious and credible projects in the fields of health protection and humanitarian aid.

Welcoming the neediest children with serious pathologies from countries with fewer resources has by now taken on a strategic centrality in the Foundation's work, allowing it to specifically direct an ever-growing set of resources. Their translation, in terms of the solution to medical assistance needs, has yielded significant results, confirming the need for a positioning aimed at seizing and providing answers to this complex and often dramatic scenario of demands for medical treatment.

Field missions for training and technical assistance, in order to transfer knowledge and experience in the paediatric field free of charge, are an equally strategic aspect. It is oriented towards international scenarios and countries with a lower level of medical specialisation, following the idea of an ecumenical health mission that is also achieved by sharing and conveying as much as possible the wealth of skills, knowledge and experience that is capitalised daily in the ordi-

nary management of the Hospital, with its multidisciplinary health excellences.

## **TRANSPARENT RELATIONS WITH DONORS.**

The strong ethical and value connotation that characterizes the Foundation's mission has a particular propensity for social reporting of its actions and objectives. On the operational level, this translates into the continuous and ordinary deployment of management activities aimed at maximum transparency in all phases of the donation process: donors are informed promptly and in detail of the transfer of funds to the Children's Hospital, respecting the constraints of destination and, when activities are carried out, of their outcomes and results.

## **FRUGALITY IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

The Foundation is characterised by a lean and agile management, in order to guarantee the full and prompt implementation of every initiative and phase of activity. Frugality in terms of organisation and management is one of the main features of the Foundation, which also translates, on an economic level, into a management characterised by very limited expenses. This ensures that the funds raised are allocated to the development activities of the Children's Hospital, which is regularly informed of the donations received and the related allocation constraints.

# COLLABORATION BETWEEN FONDAZIONE BAMBINO GESÙ ONLUS AND OSPEDALE PEDIATRICO BAMBINO GESÙ IRCCS

## **The Foundation and the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù: a pairing with solid value anchors.**

Since their establishment, the values shared by the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù IRCCS and the Foundation have traced a common evolutionary line. It remains strongly anchored to the ethical, ecumenical and Christian solidarity principles and values of the Holy See, building a first aid reality that has become more and more diverse and complex on a medical and scientific level, to the point of becoming an international reference point for paediatric patients. Bound together by an indissoluble common mission, in a relationship that welds the assumptions with the aims, the values with the operating methods, the re-

sources with the objectives, the Hospital and the Foundation work together for the good of the children. They nourish a mutual architecture of relationships, regulations and procedures aimed at ensuring the sustainability of health action towards important goals of care, assistance and research in the fields of medicine and new therapies, new drugs and modern methodologies and technologies to address the children's health needs. At the same time it constitutes an outpost for humanitarian and hospitality aspects, both nationally and internationally.

## **The value of giving for a humanitarian and health mission.**

The dynamic, continuous nature of the





## ALLOCATION OF THE RAISED FUNDS:

- support for scientific research;
- support for healthcare projects;
- contribution to the construction of new facilities;
- purchase of technological equipment;
- hospitality for the families of hospitalized children;
- humanitarian care;
- international training missions;
- Paediatric Palliative Care Centre;
- other activities.

complex activities daily employed in the management of the Hospital represents a process that needs continuous support, with the need to lay brick upon brick in a construction of processes for the protection of children's health that cannot have a specific time horizon. Instead, it sees in the continuity of medical, welfare and scientific action the continuation of its history, which now dates back more than 150 years. It strives towards a future which, especially after the Covid 19 planetary pandemic and its further globalising effect, requires gestures and actions of solidarity and mutual aid to be applied on an international scale.

The institutional role of the Foundation in supporting the Hospital is therefore absolutely consistent with the contingencies, the related demands and the related needs for help. They see in the daily mission of the Hospital a paediatric care polarization that very often goes beyond the humanitarian scope and the families. It finds care responses in a much broader key, always marked by solidarity, defining the specular spectrum of action of the Foundation.



## Organisational procedural reciprocity.

The close link between the Hospital and the Foundation has fostered the development of a common line, integrating management processes and procedures to ensure full legitimacy, transparency and functionality of the various possible forms of aid and support from those who donate to the Hospital through the Foundation.

The Foundation's procedures (Single Register, accounting records, etc.) ensure the tracking of each donation. The synergic relationship with the Hospital's control areas has made it possible to create a monitoring network that ensures the timely allocation of resources for the benefit of the projects and activities to which they are specifically attributed. The Hospital's reporting methods also allow the Foundation to produce targeted reporting for its

stakeholders.

Specifically, in October 2019, the Hospital redefined in an organic and unified manner the processes relating to the acquisition, management and reporting of donations that, either directly or through the Foundation, identify the Children's Hospital as the beneficiary. It follows that all donations made to the Foundation by individuals or corporations (in money, through bequests or testamentary dispositions, or other donations) intended to support the Hospital's activities are collected, catalogued, assessed, accepted and accounted for by the Foundation, with the sole exception of the collection of the "5 x mille", which continues to be made by both the Hospital and the Foundation.

The Donations Single Register (RUD) is set up at the Foundation, to record in chronological order all the donations received directly by the Foundation, which then eval-





uates them as suitable for the Hospital, as well as all donation proposals that designate the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù as the end beneficiary. The Register also includes the reporting and communication to donors.

The allocation of the raised funds:

- a)** support for scientific research;
- b)** support to healthcare projects;
- c)** contribution to the construction of new facilities;
- d)** purchase of technological equipment;
- e)** hospitality for the families of hospitalized children;
- f)** humanitarian care;
- g)** international training missions;
- h)** health school platform;
- i)** Centre for Paediatric Palliative Care;
- l)** other activities.

## The value of continuity over time.

The globalization of illnesses and viruses and the evolution of communication tools, including digital ones, have led the Foundation to calibrate its mission of supporting health activities by projecting the boundaries of its action well beyond the Italian scale. It casts its gaze beyond, to increasingly provide answers, contributions of works and actions, wherever there is a need and a cry for help that requires care and assistance for children, the sons and daughters of the world, and their often tormented families. As a result, the Foundation's institutional support action is also oriented towards international scenarios and the search for possible partnerships and donors that move in a consolidated and systematic manner, to support initiatives on a global scale, worthy and with a genuine humanitarian, aid and care significance, such as those carried out daily by the Children's Hospital.

The connotation of IRCCS among the most accredited, and therefore a point of reference in the field of research, is all the more important because it is also translational, with direct and beneficial effects on the care of children. It gives further added value to the Hospital, acting as an institution that is particularly accredited to receive donations and allocating resources for major projects that see the Foundation engaged as a reference hub.

The provision of Legislative Decree 16 October 2003, no. 288, very emblematically defines IRCCSs as "bodies of national importance with legal personality and autonomy that, according to standards of excellence, pursue research purposes, mainly clinical and translational, in the biomedical field and in the organization and management of health services, together with hospitalization and high speciality care services"; these characteristics are particularly relevant to the Hospital and to its daily life as a whole.

## A daily memento.

The Foundation and the Children's Hospital is guided, as a daily reference horizon, by founding principles with great ethical, moral, ecumenical and Christian solidarity value and impact, such as the iconic image given in a message by Pope Francis about child care a few years ago:

**"Whoever takes care of the little ones is on God's side, don't forget: whoever takes care of the little ones is on God's side and overcomes the discard culture! In the sick person we find Christ, and in the love of those who lean over his wounds lies the way to meet him!"**

# THE NETWORK OF RELATIONSHIPS

The Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus manages a wide network of internal and external relationships to perform its activities.

**THE DONORS.** They are the Foundation's great resource: natural and legal persons, institutions, companies which, through their contributions, support the development and solidarity projects of the Children's Hospital. The following pages provide a summary of the donations received in 2020 by the Foundation and transferred by it to the Children's Hospital.

## **THE HOSPITAL AND ITS EMPLOYEES.**

The Bambino Gesù is the largest paediatric polyclinic and research centre in Europe, employing some 3500 professionals, a point of reference for the health of children and young people from all over Italy and abroad. The Hospital is the Italian branch of Orphanet, the world's largest database for rare diseases with 39 member countries.

Healthcare is provided in five centres: the historical centre on the Gianicolo, the San Paolo Fuori le Mura and Viale Baldelli centres in Rome, and the Palidoro and Santa Marinella centres on the Lazio coast. It counts a total of 607 beds, of which 40 are intensive care and 22 neonatal semi-intensive care.

The Hospital's employees help the Foundation in seeking the best allocation of

resources, promptly identifying new needs to interpret the wishes and needs of patients and their families.

**ASSOCIATIONS.** Firstly, there are the Volunteer Associations that not only give their contribution to improve hospitality in the Hospital, but also do their utmost to promote fundraising that the Foundation then allocates according to the most urgent needs. There are also many contacts with cultural and sports associations, professional associations and local authorities. These contacts are aimed both at providing appropriate services to patients and their families and at promoting fundraising initiatives for the Foundation to support the various activities of the Children's Hospital.

**PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.** The Hospital admits and provides treatment to patients from all over the world and supports research on rare diseases, tumours and transplants, while the Foundation is concerned with raising funds to ensure adequate hospitality for family members, to support children without means who need expensive care, and to disseminate knowledge of best healthcare practices free of charge.

## **FOUNDATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS.**

Systematic relations are maintained with the Foundations of the major Ital-





ian Children's Hospitals (Meyer, Gaslini), with national and international Foundations, with local and national Institutions (Heal Foundation, Ania Foundation, Enel Cuore Foundation, Knights of Columbus Foundation, Robert Kennedy Foundation, Italian Cystic Fibrosis League, etc.).

## **MEDIA AND SOCIAL NETWORKS.**

Through these tools, the Foundation raises awareness of the news and events it organizes, with a storytelling that involves the internet public in the implementation of the activities. The Foundation periodically addresses the community of donors, patients' families and associations with a newsletter providing reports on the donations it receives and illustrating the Foundation's events and programmes. In 2020,

the Foundation's website was completely overhauled and fundraising now also uses a new tool, an App dedicated to the Foundation which will be described in the following pages.

**THE WORKING GROUP.** The Foundation operates with a small working group of five professionals coordinated by the Secretary General. Since the previous organization was profoundly changed in early 2021, we have devoted a special space to describing the internal organization and activities of the Foundation.

**THE CORPORATE BODIES.** The Board of Directors and the Board of Statutory Auditors, appointed at the beginning of 2020 and already presented last year, continue the work of guiding and supporting the Foundation.

# THE CORPORATE BODIES

The Fondazione Bambino Gesù uses the following institutional bodies for the purposes of its governance: Chairman, Governing Board, Board of Statutory Auditors. The Chairman is appointed by the

Holy See, by a separate act of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State of the Vatican also appoints the members of the Board of Directors and the Board of Statutory Auditors.

## THE GOVERNING BOARD

Mariella Enoc _____	Chairman
Massimiliano Atelli _____	Director
Pierluigi Betturri _____	Director
Maite Bulgari _____	Director
Ferruccio De Bortoli _____	Director
Moroello Diaz Della Vittoria Pallavicini _____	Director
Giuseppe Mascarucci _____	Director
Maria Grazia Salviati _____	Permanent Invited Member

**CHAIRMAN.** The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù is a member by right of the Governing Board of the Foundation and is also the Chairman of the Foundation itself, as well as of its Governing Board, without prejudice to the option to resign. The Chairman is the legal representative of the Foundation before third parties and in court, and holds the signatory powers; she coordinates the Foundation's activities and oversees the full achievement of its goals; she convenes and chairs the meetings of the Board of Directors; she handles the execution of the adopted resolutions; she performs the acts of ordinary administration; she

adopts and implements the irreversible and urgent measures of extraordinary administration, which are necessary for the proper functioning of the Foundation.

**GOVERNING BOARD.** The Governing Board holds all the powers of ordinary and extraordinary administration of the Foundation; it approves the annual draft budget and the draft annual Financial Statements; it resolves on the strategy, the objectives and the fundamental programmes of the Foundation's activities; it resolves on the acceptance of contributions, donations and bequests, as well as the purchase and sale of movable assets and real property.



The current Governing Board was appointed for the three-year term 2020-2022 and serves until the approval of the draft Financial Statements of 2022.

**BOARD OF STATUTORY AUDITORS.** The Board of Statutory Auditors verifies that the accounts are properly kept and checks the financial management.

The current Board of Statutory Auditors was appointed for the three-year period 2020-2022 and serves until the approval of the 2022 Financial Statements. The Board consists of: Maurizio Zelli (Chairman), Francesco Alati and Chiara Borghi, replaced - due to resignation - in 2021 by Gianni Artegiani.



### **MARIELLA ENOC (CHAIRMAN)**

She has always held positions of responsibility directing and managing healthcare facilities. Former Chairman of Confindustria Piemonte; Deputy Chairman of the Cariplo Foundation and the Cini Foundation; Board member of various bodies (Social Housing Foundation, Filarete Foundation, University of Eastern Piemonte "A. Avogadro"). Since 2015, she is the Chairman of the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù.



### **MASSIMILIANO ATELLI**

Law graduate, PhD in "Economic Law", licensed to practice as a lawyer, contract university lecturer in Civil Law, Banking Law, and Information and Communication Law at various Italian universities, and a magistrate at the Court of Auditors since 2003. In 2015-16 he was a consultant to the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into counterfeiting, commercial piracy and illegal trade.



### **PIERLUIGI BETTURRI**

Born in Rome, he had a technical education, followed by architecture. After working at the State Railways, he turned his attention to amateur and youth sports and to the restaurant business sector. In the early 2000s he created the Configno Museum, of which he is the director, and founded the Orie Nature Oasis. Since 2012, he has been Chairman of Trastevere Calcio, a Serie D team.



### **MAITE BULGARI**

Graduated in Communication Sciences, PhD in Philosophy, she worked as a journalist first in Spain and then in Italy, in the press and for radio and television broadcasters. Since 2003, she has made many documentary films dedicated to illustrious people in Italian cinema. She has been active in promoting and supporting anti-poverty activities for many years.





## **FERRUCCIO DE BORTOLI**

He is an Italian journalist. He was twice Director of the Corriere della Sera, from 1997 to 2003 and from 2009 to 2015, as well as Director of Il Sole 24 Ore from 2005 to 2009. Since 2015, he has been Chairman of the Vidas Association of Milan. He is currently Chairman of the Longanesi publishing house.



## **MOROELLO DIAZ DELLA VITTORIA PALLAVICINI**

Graduated in Law, he soon devoted himself to family affairs in the real estate, winery and agricultural sectors. Together with his brother Sigieri, he is the main shareholder of many companies in the financial and energy sector. Former National Chairman of the Italian Historic Houses Association, he is a director of the AIRC Foundation for Cancer Research and a member of the General Board and the Committee of the Cini Foundation.



## **GIUSEPPE MASCARUCCI**

Graduated in Law, he has worked in some well-known law firms. Since 2001, he has been employed in the Secretariat of State, where he manages certain legal aspects. Member of the Supervisory Board of the Vatican Press - L'Osservatore Romano - Photo Service. Head of the Coordination Centre for the Protection of Images and Emblems (CCTIS).

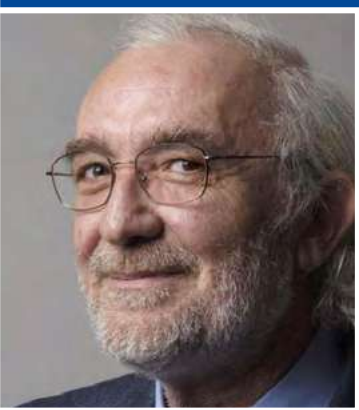


# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Foundation operates through a particularly streamlined organizational structure in order to ensure its operational efficiency and timeliness, as well as containing management costs. It is made up of a Secretary General and a working group of five people, each of whom, although responsible for a certain area of activity, is in charge, together with the others, of thinking about, setting up and defining institutional fundraising campaigns; planning and carrying out charity meetings; carrying out marketing projects and partner-

ships with bodies and companies aimed at fundraising; following the progress of donations and the related procedures.

In 2020, the role of Head of Fundraising Activities and Social Communication still existed. However, in the new organisational plan, this role has been eliminated in order to strengthen the autonomy and responsibility of individuals and encourage the integration and sharing of actions and projects.



## **FRANCESCO AVALLONE (SECRETARY GENERAL)**

Graduated in law, specialized in psychology, business manager, professor of labour and organization psychology, former Vice Rector of Sapienza University of Rome and Rector of Unitelma Sapienza, he has promoted research, programmes and interventions on well-being and organizational development.

The Secretary General works in direct collaboration with the Chairman of the Foundation.

On the Chairman's instructions, he prepares the documentation related to the deliberations of the Board of Directors and maintains relations with the Governing Board, the Statutory Auditors and the Auditing Firm; he takes care of the prepara-

tion of the draft budget and financial statements.

He maintains relations with the components of the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù and with the various categories of donors, in particular for the support of the Hospital's major development projects.

He oversees administrative and financial activities with an emphasis on transpar-

ency and reporting of raised funds.

He is responsible for keeping the Donations Single Register and for analysing the related flows; he coordinates the Working Group to promote activities aimed at finding resources to support the development projects of the Children's Hospital.

The working group deals with the following activities in an integrated manner:

- Weekly updating of the Donations Single Register; handling the transfers made to the Children's Hospital; correspondence regarding thanks for donations both to institutional entities and individuals; preparation of receipts for donations valid also for tax purposes.
- Handling discussions with Foundations, Associations and Organisations to support the Hospital's major development projects. Management of the procedures relating to donations and bequests intended for the Foundation. Preparation of the Foundation's contracts and agreements with donors, suppliers and other parties.

- Managing relationships with Communication Agencies for the production of printed and multimedia material. Managing Direct Marketing activities and promotion of Campaigns at loyal and new companies. Managing requests for solidarity wedding favours, solidarity wedding lists, solidarity birthday wishes lists, etc.

- Managing and updating the website; identifying and implementing the information published on the site on a multi-weekly basis; maintaining the email account [info.fond@fondbg.it](mailto:info.fond@fondbg.it) and managing the related correspondence.

- Managing the processes relating to donations that require preliminary procedures, with the due reports, with the management control and with the Hospital structures concerned.

- Reporting incoming and outgoing cash flows; managing relations with the Foundation's banks; managing contacts with the Board of Statutory Auditors and the auditing firm. Preparation of the draft budget and financial statements; reporting of the 5 x mille to the competent Ministry.

## THE DONATIONS SINGLE REGISTER JANUARY - DECEMBER 2020

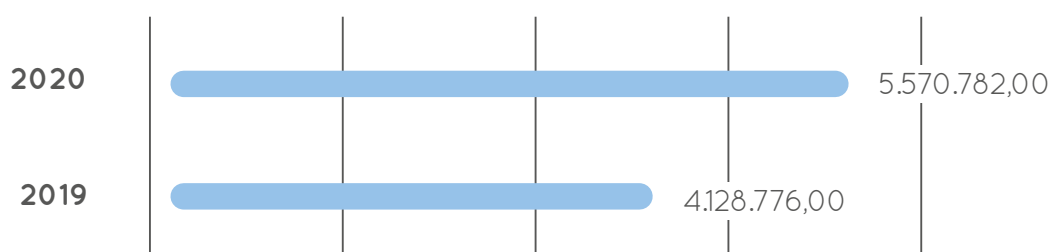


As from 1 January 2020, the Donations Single Register (RUD) will be set up at the Fondazione Bambino Gesù, in which all donations received by the Foundation will be recorded in chronological order.

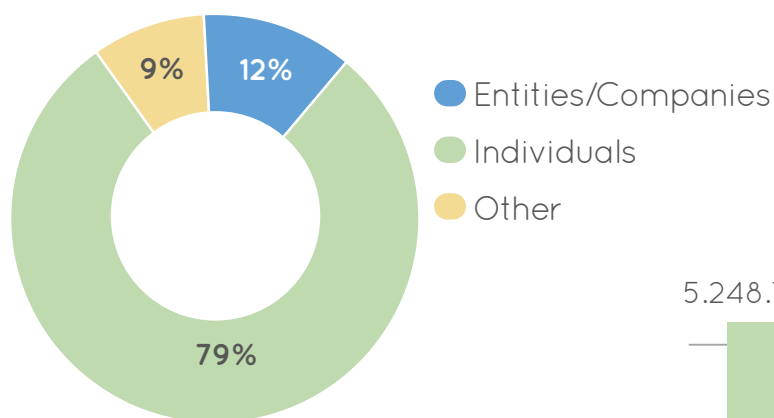


# ANALYSIS OF THE DONATIONS

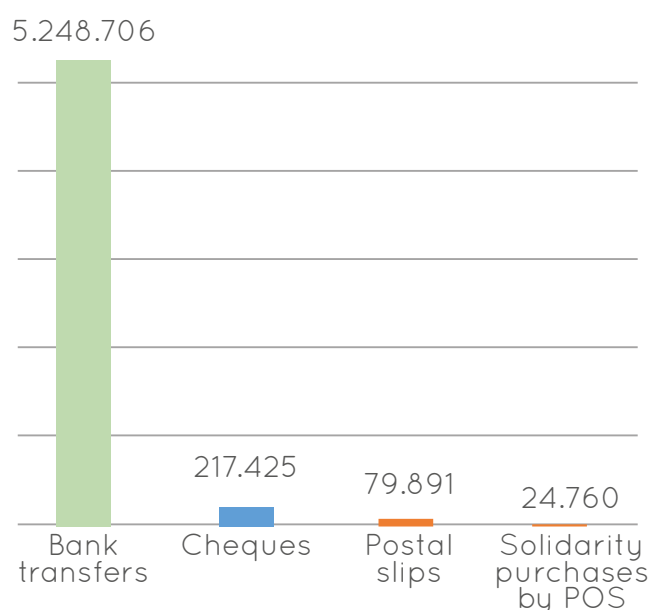
As mentioned above, the Donations Single Register (RUD) was set up at the Foundation in 2020, to record in chronological order all the donations made or received directly by the Foundation, which then evaluates them as suitable for the Hospital. 2020 was a year marked by a strong spirit of solidarity. The total raised funds are over 34.9% higher than the previous year.



In 2020, 2,412 donations were recorded, of which 79% came from individual donations, 12% from entities/companies, and 9% from others.

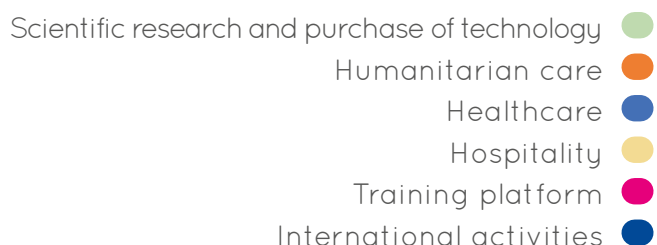
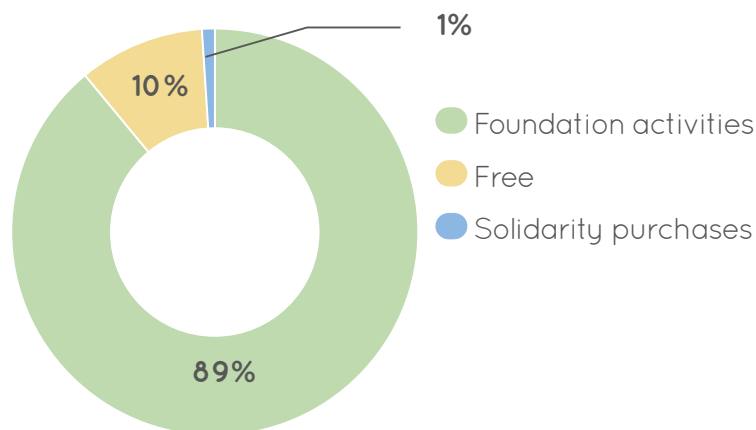


94% of the amounts donated were by bank transfer. The remaining 5% was through postal account, cheques, postal slips, and solidarity purchases by credit card.



89% of donations are related to the Foundation's projects, 10% are free, and the remaining 1% is related to solidarity wedding favours. We must remember that due to the pandemic, the purchase of wedding favours has been drastically reduced.

Among the projects supported by the Foundation, scientific research and the purchase of technological equipment (57%) and humanitarian treatment (31%) received the most donations.



In order to proceed with the allocation of donations with destination constraints, such as the support of a particular research project, the Foundation promotes the feasibility analysis of the proposals received, verifying the fulfilment of the requirements of lawfulness (no anonymous donations; no cash donations; no pending charges; consistency with the code of ethics; ability of the donor to dispose of the object of the donation and free availability of the property to be donated; absence of conflicts of interest between the donor and the Hospital and Foundation and its employees). It then requires approval by the hospital's Management Control after their appropriate checks. If the allocation constraint concerns assets to be evaluated by the Purchasing Evaluation Committee ("CVA"), such as the purchase of equipment, prior submission to the CVA is required so it may express its opinion.

## ALLOCATION OF DONATIONS.

The successful allocation of the donation is notified by the Foundation to the Hospital, specifying the cost centre to which the donation must refer. The Foundation notifies the donor of the transfer of the funds to the Hospital and their intended use. During 2020, the Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus supported, with donations received in various ways, the health and scientific activities of the Hospital with 5.4 million euros allocated as follows: 3 million euros for the Hospital's clinical and research activities; with 2.3 million euros for hospitality and healthcare for Italian and foreign patients who are disadvantaged due to their physical, psychic, economic and social conditions; with 0.1 million euros for international cooperation initiatives.

# THE ACTIVITIES

## SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

One of the Foundation's objectives is to support the development of scientific research in all the Hospital's sectors of excellence, in order to find increasingly effective and personalised therapies for the treatment of young patients.

Thanks to the help of individuals and companies, many goals have already been achieved, but the research doesn't stop; there are new challenges to be faced for the health of children, from the study of the possible consequences of the novel coronavirus in infants, children and adolescents, to new therapies for cancer treatments; from research on organ transplants and hematopoietic stem cells to translational research projects, aimed at an increasingly timely and targeted therapy for the treatment of many diseases.

In 2016, the Foundation launched the social campaign *Vite Coraggiose* (Courageous Lives) to support research for rare and ultra-rare diseases; the project, which ended in 2018, now evolved into *Vite Coraggiose - Tutti i figli del mondo* (Courageous Lives - All the Children of the World) to support education and treatment for children in their own countries of origin.

In June 2020, a new social campaign *Abbraccia la Ricerca* (Embrace Research) was launched. This project supports scientific research related to the possible consequences of the novel coronavirus in infants and children, with particular attention to observational studies and

research on immunopathologies involving the cardiovascular, respiratory and gastrointestinal systems.

In 2020, the Hospital's commitment to research is evidenced by some figures: 1,066 people engaged in research, including 555 research contractors.

There were 719 research projects in 2020, including 5 infrastructure, 302 translational and 412 clinical research projects. In particular, 69% of the clinical projects were exclusively clinical and 31% were both pre-clinical and clinical.

Particularly important were the projects dedicated to rare diseases and rare cancers, which together accounted for 36% of the projects.

In 2020, thanks to the Foundations, Associations and Companies and private individuals who have chosen to support the *Fondazione Bambino Gesù* for the benefit of the growth objectives of the paediatric institution, the Foundation supported the Hospital's clinical and research activities with 3 million euros.

In this context, in addition to the support to clinical and research activities, COVID activity includes the implementation of the Virology laboratory project at the *Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù*.

Particular support has been given to strengthening the Bio Bank and to the important research on the pre-clinical validation of CAR constructs capable of simultaneously attacking two targets expressed on acute B lymphoblastic leukaemia cells.





Immunotherapy is one of the most innovative and promising strategies in cancer research. It is based on different methods that have in common the ability to activate the immune system against tumour cells. One of the methods for restoring the ability of cells of the immune system, in this case T lymphocytes, to recognize the tumour cell, is made possible by the introduction into these cells of the gene for a CAR (Chimeric Antigen Receptor). This protein makes T cells able to bind to a molecule expressed by the tumour cell, which is then the “key” to identifying the tumour. Once bound to the malignant cell, CAR results in activation of the toxic T-cell arsenal, which ultimately induces tumour cell death. Patients who are eligible for the protocols currently active at the Bambino Gesù Hospital undergo in a first phase the procedure of so-called lymphocyte-

pheresis, i.e. the collection of T lymphocytes from blood. The cells are then sent to the Officina Farmaceutica laboratories, GMP-grade laboratories accredited by AIFA for cell and gene therapy, where they are genetically modified to express the CAR. Once ready, and having passed quality analyses confirming the functionality and safety of the product, CAR-T cells are frozen to be re-infused at the appropriate time.

The CAR T currently approved for clinical use at Bambino Gesù are able to identify, as a “key” to tumour recognition, CD19 or GD2 molecules. Patients who may benefit from CAR T cell therapy, therefore, are patients affected by CD19-positive B-cell malignant haematological diseases (B lymphoblastic leukaemia and Non-Hodgkin’s lymphomas) or by neuroblastoma, a neoplasm expressing GD2.

## CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT.

The Fondazione Bambino Gesù supports the purchase of specific equipment with the most modern and least invasive technologies possible, which the paediatric institution makes available to its specialists in order to provide patients with the best possible care.

Clinical excellence is linked to the use of the latest technology, not only in the diagnosis and treatment of a disease, but also in prevention, surgery and rehabilitation of young patients.

In 2020, thanks to the Foundations, Associations and Companies that have chosen to support the Fondazione Bambino Gesù for the benefit of the paediatric institution's growth objectives, it was possible to purchase important technological equipment including: the Hyperion System, the 'Surgical Theatre' neurosurgical simulator, and EVLP - Ex Vivo Lung Perfusion.

The Hyperion Imaging System combines proven CyTOF<sup>®</sup> technology with imaging

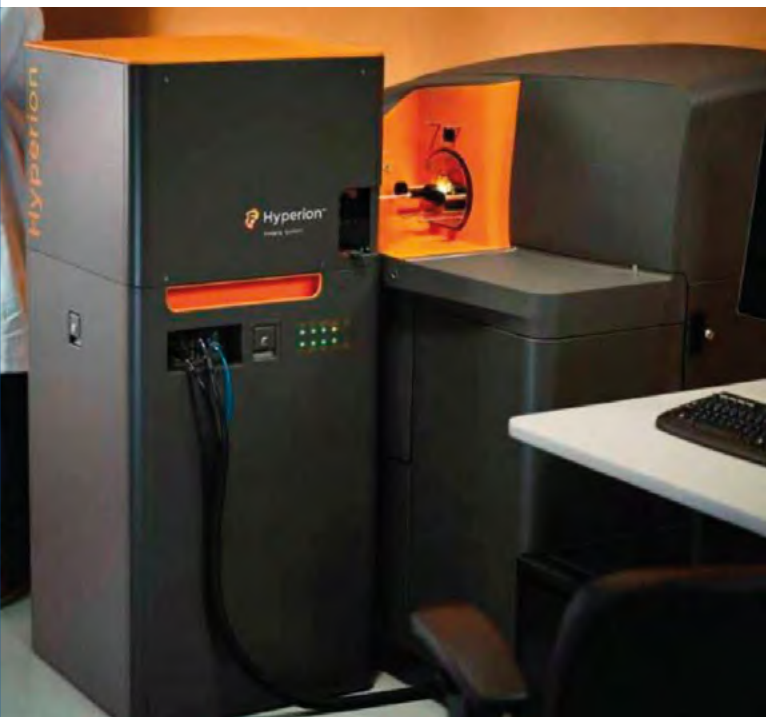


*The 'Surgical Theatre' neurosurgical simulator (Donation from the Heal Foundation).*

capabilities to enable simultaneous interrogation of 4 to 37 protein markers using Imaging Mass Cytometry<sup>™</sup> (IMC<sup>™</sup>). Using this system, tissues and tumours can be interrogated in depth at sub-cellular resolution, preserving information in tissue architecture and cellular morphology to discover novel correlations between biomarkers and cellular interactions.

In the context of basic research, this system may allow a better understanding of intratumoral heterogeneity and tumour evolution (by studying biopsy and autopsy specimens) and to define the functional status of tumour cells (their activities and their interactions with normal tissue).

In translational research, this system can allow us to study the response to therapeutic treatments on tumour tissue or on cells derived from tumour samples and to identify biomarkers, i.e. sentinel molecules, which can be followed over time also on blood samples and give us indications on how the tumour responds to certain treatments.



*Hyperion System (donation from the Heal Foundation).*

Every year, the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù treats about 100 children with brain tumours.

The diagnosis of a brain disease is a shock to the families of the children affected by the condition and to the patients, if they are kids old enough to understand what is happening to them. Hospitalization in hospital facilities, even if they are as welcoming as the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, the fear of the disease, the uncertainty about the success of the treatments and the possibility of having a future distort the lives of families and children involved in this event.

A complex pathology that affects the brain of children or young people is undoubtedly a challenge from a human and professional point of view. The hands, the wisdom and the professionalism of the doctors is entrusted with the lives of young patients, who can become women and men only if they overcome the great obstacle they have encountered on their path.

The Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù offers its doctors one more tool to combat the pathologies that affect the brains of young patients: the Surgical Theatre neurosurgical simulator. This sophisticated technological platform helps reduce the impact of surgical procedures on children through the 3D construction of the

anatomical parts under scrutiny.

The Surgical Theatre simulator software stores and reprocesses the data acquired during the diagnostic examinations and builds 3D models of the area affected by the disease.

Like an explorer, the neurosurgeon wears a special visor like a pair of glasses, “entering” the brain and, in the three-dimensional space of the images, is able to move within the brain structures affected by the disease. Doctors can also simulate surgical manoeuvres, perform “rehearsals” in a virtual environment, experiment with alternative techniques, and prepare every detail of surgery in advance.

The simulation can be repeated by the neurosurgeon and the team as many times as necessary, increasing the safety of the operation and making the surgical impact less invasive, with a greater guarantee of sparing harm to healthy brain structures.

On the day of the operation, a workstation on which previously studied models are stored enters the operating room and supports the neurosurgeon and his team in the delicate procedure. The use of Surgical Theatre allows the operation to be planned virtually, shortening the timeframe and reducing family anxiety about such a complex operation.

This technique involves taking lungs from



*EVLP - Ex Vivo Lung Perfusion 180,000 (Donation of the Italian Cystic Fibrosis League).*



a beating-hearted but brain-dead donor. The harvested lungs that undergo this procedure are healthy, but temporarily functionally impaired as a result of metabolic events related to brain death (oedema, chemical mediators, endobronchial secretions) and therefore could not be used for transplantation.

**The ex-vivo reconditioning technique** removes harmful chemical mediators from the lungs, excess water in the lung tissue, and aspirates secretions within the bronchi. At the end of this treatment, which lasts about 4 hours, it is possible to make an assessment of the function of the organs and thus decide whether they are actually transplantable. This technique allows the recovery of organs discarded in the first instance but potentially valid after appropriate treatment, so it is certainly a valid tool to increase the chances of a transplant for a patient on the waiting list.

## SUPPORT TO HEALTHCARE PROJECTS.

The Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù is the only hospital in Europe that performs all types of transplants practicable in the paediatric field and is confirmed at the highest national and international levels in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of many complex diseases.

In 2020, Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù performed 26,179 ordinary admissions and 30,196 surgical and interventional procedures and 383 transplants. Many donors wish to link their contribution to the support of a specific Hospital department.

These donations help the Hospital to respond more and more efficiently to the demand for services and to create a better environment for patients and those who take care of them.

To this end, the Hospital draws up and updates a list of wishes and needs which

contains the recommendations expressed by patients and the real needs of each department.

In some cases, the donors manifest their constraints by specifying the department followed by the name of the doctor they have had the opportunity to meet and appreciate; in other cases, the constraint regards a specific tool and equipment to be allocated to the department; in still other cases, the contribution is aimed at supporting a line of research followed closely by the chosen Ward or Department.

## SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES - WELCOME PROJECT

The Fondazione Bambino Gesù supports the hospitality of the Children's Hospital dedicated to the families of hospitalized patients with the greatest economic difficulties. These are families from all over Italy and from the most disadvantaged countries in the world who, during the long stays of their children, need assistance and support, for transplants, for the treatment of serious diseases, for complex operations or for neuro-rehabilitation therapies.

Thanks also to the contribution of Voluntary Associations, in 2018, 4,479 families were hosted for over 100,000 nights.

In 2019, the Foundation helped accommodate 5,569 families, providing 118,470 free nights.

In 2020, the Foundation directly secured 10,353 nights for 231 families through its two accommodation facilities.

FACILITY	FAMILIES	NIGHTS
Suore Libanesi	212	9.273
Pieralice	19	1.080

In 2020, the entire system provided 111,833 free person/nights for 3,801 families.

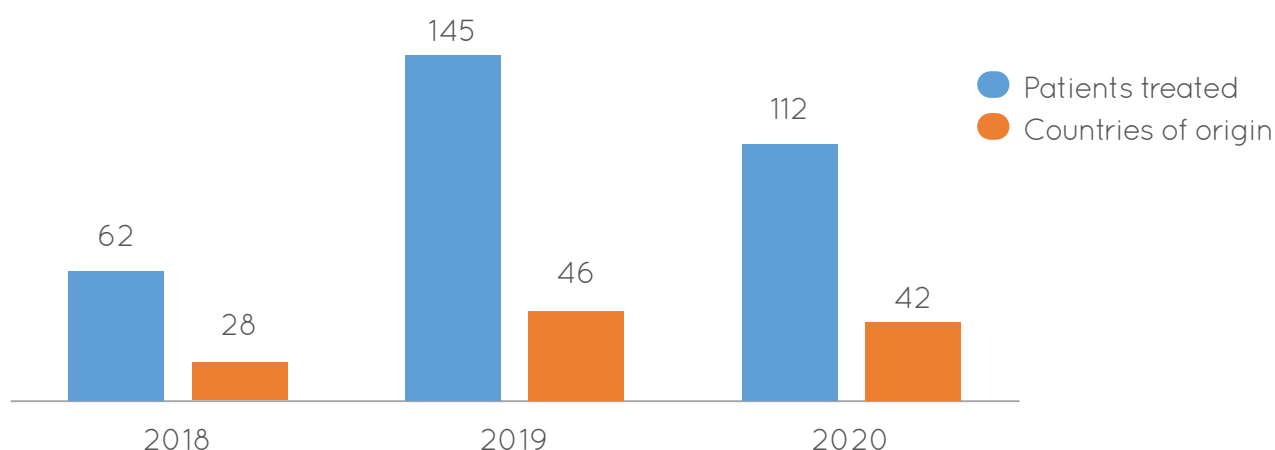
## HUMANITARIAN CARE PROJECT.

The Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù provides free hospitality and treatment services of a humanitarian nature to children without any form of coverage of medical expenses, because they are neither Italian citizens nor members of the European Union, nor supported by humanitarian or charitable organisations. The Hospital's costs are supported with the involvement of the Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus, which promotes specific fundraising activities for this purpose. The costs of humanitarian care are entirely borne by the Fondazione Bambino Gesù which, with the social campaign Frammenti di luce

(Fragments of Light), in 2018, was able to support the care and hospitality of 62 children from 28 countries, and in 2019, 145 children from 46 countries.

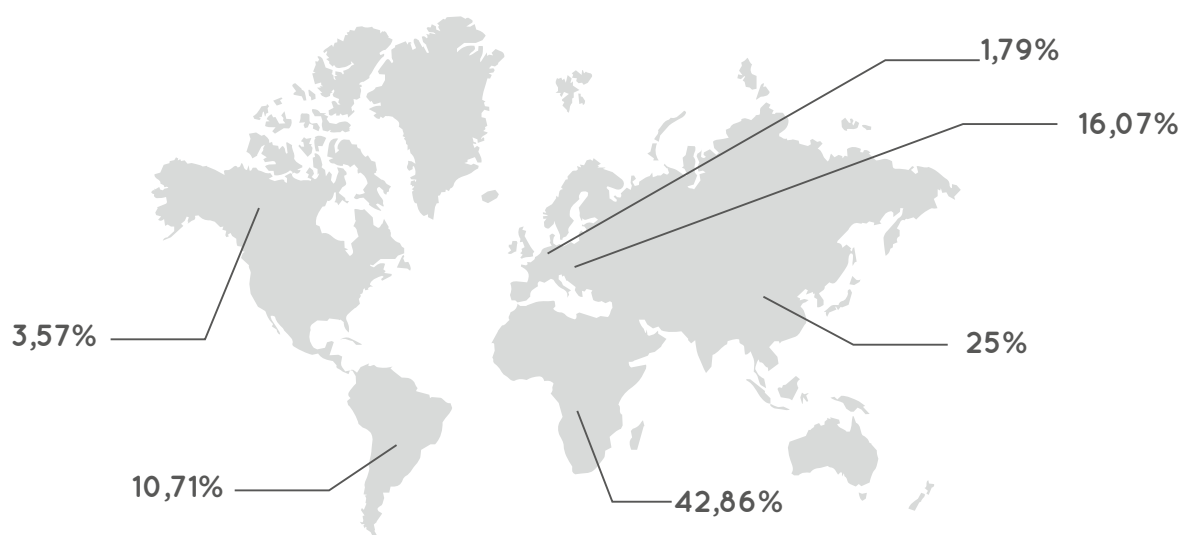
In 2020, the number of foreign patients treated was lower than in the previous year, and this was certainly affected by the lower mobility linked to COVID.

The patients who received free treatment were 112, with a total economic burden of about 1.3 million euros borne almost entirely by fundraising activities promoted by the Fondazione Bambino Gesù with its Frammenti di luce campaign.



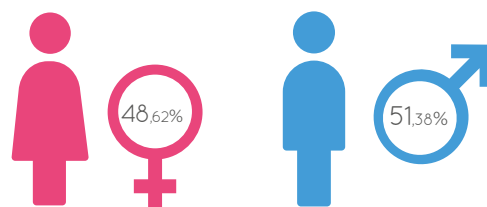
The origin by geographical macro-areas shows that the majority of patients come from Africa (43%), followed by Asia

(25%), countries outside the European Union (16%), America (14%) and finally the European Union (2%).

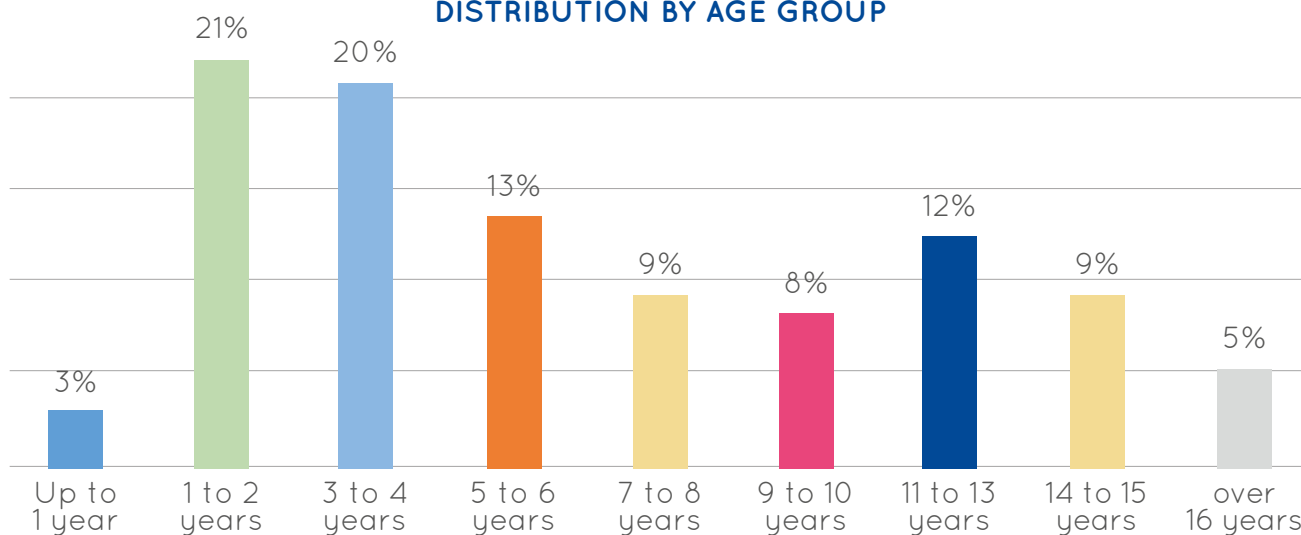


A study conducted on the reception of humanitarian children over the past three years revealed the following data:

#### DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



#### DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP





## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES. TRAINING OF HEALTH PERSONNEL IN THIRD COUNTRIES AND THE HEALTH SCHOOL PLATFORM.

Since the early 1980s, the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù has been involved in assisting and treating children in conflict-affected or highly disadvantaged developing countries. Today, the Hospital can count on a structured service, supported by the Bambino Gesù Foundation, which has set up important cooperation projects in 12 countries around the world (Cambodia, China, South Korea, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Haiti, India, Central African Republic, Russia, Syria and Tanzania), offering training in 20 different paediatric specialities and highly specialised health services.

Activities aimed not only at treating children on site, but also at providing independence in care and assistance to doctors and health workers in the countries involved.

The Fondazione Bambino Gesù supports the education and care of children in their own countries of origin through the social communication campaign *Vite Coraggiose* (Courageous Lives), created in 2016 to support research and treatment of rare and ultra-rare diseases which, in 2018, evolved into *Vite Coraggiose - Tutti i figli del mondo* (Courageous Lives - All the Children of the World).

In 2020, the design of an e-learning platform specifically dedicated both in technological structure and content to developing countries and focused on all areas of paediatrics began. Addressing settings where the technological infrastructure is limited and technological equipment (PCs, classrooms, etc.) does not reach the entire population, while the use of smartphones is widespread, the platform is configured to allow access from any device without the need for



a particular computer technology. The training courses that populate the platform are based on the contents of the training projects (translated into different languages) that the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù is developing in different countries around the world. The provision of a single platform for training in paediatrics makes it possible to provide this training to a much wider pool of users, offering free access to health facilities and health professionals in situations that present the same training need in the developing world.

In 2020, the most significant international cooperation initiatives were with the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Syria, Jordan, Cambodia, Russia, China, Paraguay, El Salvador and Libya.

The Fondazione Bambino Gesù supported the School Health Platform in 2020 with an initial contribution of 50,000 euros.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS



In the past, the special projects referred solely to donations and their use that did not include the Ospedale Pediatrico as a recipient of funds. The largest example was

a donation spread over several yearly budgets to support various initiatives related to the Bangui Children's Hospital in the Central African Republic.

## **SUPPORT FOR THE BANGUI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.**

The Fondazione Bambino Gesù has on several occasions supported the local Children's Hospital through the purchase of equipment, support for the remuneration of some units of medical personnel, and the construction or maintenance of physical facilities.

The Foundation's commitment in Bangui is supporting the renovation of the existing paediatric complex, completed in 2018. It also continues to encourage the recruitment and training of staff working in the facility by providing internships in Italy, at the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, for newly graduated specialists and professors from the Faculty of Medicine in Bangui.

The notoriety of the intervention of the Fondazione Bambino Gesù in many countries with scarce resources has led to an influx of donations which are promptly employed, strictly respecting the allocation constraints.

The funds related to these donations are resolved, both in their acquisition and in their use, by the Board of Directors, and

are transmitted to the Apostolic Nunciature of the country concerned, which oversees this type of humanitarian action.

Alongside these new requirements developed at the international level, new special projects are beginning to be launched, of immediate interest to the Children's Hospital, which give concrete form to the commitment to take care of every person of paediatric age in any situation.





## PAEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE CENTRE OF PASSOSCURO.

The first of these new requirements concerns the design of a Palliative Care Centre that the Bambino Gesù intends to build at its Passoscuro site.

To date, although there has been for years the sensitivity of the Italian legislature regarding palliative care, out of about 35,000 children who would need palliative care, only 10% have access. This is an absolutely unacceptable figure, and the sensitivity of the institutions is acting on it by promoting initiatives, in line with the creation and accreditation of the Palliative Care Centre of the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù.

The Hospital's expertise and history of successes and very high professional and healthcare quality, especially in the fields where palliative care most requires support, place it in a natural condition of being a particularly suitable and qualified implementing party for the creation and management of the Palliative Care Centre project. This project is a hub in this landscape of care needs, try-



ing to fill an important gap among those forms of care and assistance to be dedicated to children who need an alternative response to discharge and return home, when the management of the patient becomes too complex or when the family itself asks for such help.

The basic vision is clearly special, different from other experiences, unique in







its own way, because it goes beyond the common perception that represents a palliative care centre as the “end of life” place, to stand instead as an outpost of civilization and courage, to do, as well as to say, to deal concretely with areas that we are often afraid only to talk about, thus justifying a persistent inertia: indeed, an operation with a very high symbolic and evocative value, to create an outpost of “welcome and care” which, as is already the case for the Hospital, puts at the centre the paediatric patients, in their uniqueness. With their family, the patients can find those answers and that targeted and special support they need in a delicate phase that is existential

more than just about assistance.

Children should never get sick, and, as Pope Francis says, we need to be present, to be there, and to know how to accompany children who are suffering, with caresses and closeness!

The idea of accompaniment, which gives relief and makes one feel in some way protected, also refers to the Latin etymology of “pallium” (cloak), which is the root of the term “palliative” associated with this type of care. Therefore it consists of a series of actions, of specialist clinical care approaches aimed at patients affected by a disease that can no longer be resolved with treatment. For these patients it is still possible to improve the quality of life in the last stages of an incurable disease, through the relief of their physical, psychological and spiritual suffering.

Indeed, it is a question of assuming the burden of pain in the total sense, of the patient and his family, also through psychological and spiritual support.

In our country there has been regulatory focus on this subject, with law no. 38 of 15/03/2010, which clarifies that palliative care means: “the sum total of therapeutic, diagnostic and assistance actions, addressed both to the sick person and to his family, aimed at the active and total care of patients whose basic disease, characterized by an unstoppable development and an inauspicious prognosis, no longer responds to specific treatments”.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has also given a definition, as “...an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing problems associated with incurable diseases, through the prevention and relief of suffering by early identification and optimal treatment of pain and other physical, psychological, social and spiritual issues.”

The Bambino Gesù Hospital has always played a leading role in supporting the paediatric healthcare population, and has always taken care as its paradigm of action and mission. Care does not only mean healing, but also taking care, supporting and accompanying; to the point of adopting, as a Hospital, an important document, also brought to the attention of the highest institutions at the international level, the “Charter of Rights of the Dying Child”.

So even though there are, unfortunately, dying children, there are never “incurable” children!

The Hospital is particularly qualified to act as a point of reference in this area, having always shown attention to the treatment of complex diseases and often polarized in areas of rare or incurable diseases, for which there were and there are no treatments, or these treatments do not have the rate of effectiveness that can achieve the recovery and the complete return to their own life and human and social relations.

If, logistically speaking, palliative care at home would obviously be the gold standard option, with the patient and his family being taken care of directly at home, this is often not possible or does not constitute the best option for both the patient and his family.

This is where the hospitality and hospitalization centres come in, focused on offering the best palliative care to the sick and their families, if it can not be carried out at home. They ensure the accompaniment of the person in the last stages of life, with appropriate medical, psychological and spiritual support, allowing the process to be experienced with dignity in the least traumatic and painful way as possible.

Indeed, various professionals work in multidisciplinary teams in the welcoming centres: doctors, psychologists, nurses, social workers, spiritual assistants,



occupational assistants and also volunteers, who take on the delicate task of facilitator, listening and supporting in order to grasp every expectation, desire and hope of the patient and his family.

Their structural layout usually corresponds as much as possible to the domestic environment, to the home, where the patient can feel closer to the shape of his life before the illness and where he would have wished to return.

The commitment of the Foundation and the Children's Hospital consists precisely in this, in a complex and diverse project that is able to focus attention and action on children who are more special than others, who require special care and attention, in the face of special needs: therefore, a Centre, a special place where many mothers and fathers can find support, an outstretched hand that accompanies them in the care of their children, in the hospital and at home.

Each time in life has its own events, each event has its own burdens and its protagonists, and the Foundation, togeth-

er with the Hospital, strongly offer themselves as the owners of an initiative so socially relevant that it cannot remain without commitment and witnesses credibly striving to achieve their institutional, social and health mission.

The Palliative Care Centre approved by the Lazio Region will have 10 beds dedicated to patients residing in the Lazio Region, and an additional 10 beds available to patients from other Italian regions. The Foundation has taken it upon itself to find the necessary funding for the renovation of the building and to follow the work through to its completion, which will hopefully be completed on schedule by the end of 2021. We believe that this is a particularly important investment in the scope of the national healthcare services, and in many ways it will be unique in the landscape of central and southern Italy, fulfilling the demand for health and care of many families who continue not to find an adequate response to their dramatic needs.

## **RESIDENCE FOR THE TREATMENT OF EATING DISORDER PATIENTS.**

As highlighted in the Foundation's mission, one characteristic of its aims is to support the Welcome, a concept that develops 360 degrees around children, young people and their families. A concept that goes far beyond treatment, where welcoming means not having any prejudice towards the disease and its development, a stigma well known by patients suffering from eating disorders. Eating Disorders are a pressing issue in our country and have seen an increase in cases, especially among young people. This demand for health, care and hospitality goes well beyond the clinical aspect, requiring a network and structure of interventions that take charge of the young patient, in all his complexity, in order to facilitate their return to active life.

The treatment of Eating Disorders is an issue of pressing relevance, especially in recent years. The constraints due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and of the more general changes in lifestyle, relationship and consumption habits, are having a systemic effect in the lives of everyone. This calls for an increasingly organic response by the healthcare systems, presupposing a network of interventions at all the various levels of care capable of intercepting the problem, guaranteeing an appropriate course of treatment, up to a desirable gradual return to active life.

Unfortunately, even today, one of the most critical issues of the Italian health system consists in the inadequate structuring of a functional link between hospi-





tal facilities and the local territorial network. This is needed to ensure a suitable ongoing and effective “taking charge” of the patient in general, and of certain types of patients in particular. With these patients the disease does not lead to paradigms easily assessable in terms of direct recovery. Instead they require additional post-hospitalization phases, and long home care that is often not easy to manage, especially for family members. The “healthcare” chain, in its proper sense, is very often interrupted after hospital discharge, and the territorial structures do not show themselves to be adequate, ready and receptive.

The project in question stems from the Hospital’s sensitivity to this issue and the need for paediatric care, placing itself in this context, with the intention of creating a residential structure capable of receiving paediatric patients suffering

from eating disorders. A structure that can provide a health service that acts as a functional link between the hospital and the territory. It constitutes a moment of transition on the diagnostic, therapeutic and care path, acting as a clearing house between the hospitalisation phase and the phase of full recovery to life in a family environment. In a clinically structured setting, it fulfils needs that are still clinical and of medical and specialist assistance, but that can be provided in a more diverse and wider complex of “residential” services with various profiles and contents, not only related to health care.

The subjective suffering expressed in the discomfort of Eating Disorders requires a complex treatment through a multi-dimensional, multidisciplinary and multi-professional integrated intervention. This ensures the collaboration of various

specialists, as indicated by international guidelines and recommendations of national scientific societies and directions on clinical appropriateness, issued by the Ministry of Health in Italy; all this in order to evaluate and calibrate the most appropriate psycho-therapeutic, psycho-social rehabilitation and psycho-educational interventions, also in the family setting.

The logistical aspects are also important in this regard, as it is best if the residential facility is located at the shortest possible distance from the place of residence. This allows the involvement of family members, the maintenance of social, professional, study and work ties, and avoids, as much as possible, the fragmentation of the care network, while ensuring the patient has the opportunity to think of himself as an autonomous being, separate from his parents, to allow evolutionary transitions.

Once again, the Hospital intends to give a concrete and effective response to a demand that is not always easily fulfilled by the national health system. The Hospital's long-standing skills and specific expertise in this particular field also make it an authoritative and suitably structured point of reference for guiding a project with such a high social function.

This set of disorders is a perimeter from which it is not always easy to escape. Although the process of change is the responsibility of the person suffering from the disorder, much can be done indirectly to facilitate this process, by caregivers and health service personnel, and especially by residential facilities, with all their services and their staff. They can create a useful scenario characterized by relevant skills and experiences, in which active listening is predominant and characterises a physical and psychological space that is open and welcoming. In

such a space, help for the person predominates, but also the development of an existential creativity that places the patient at the centre of his universe. This helps him to find himself, promoting the conditions for his own well-being, with positive impacts on his decision-making independence and on the responsibility of his actions.

The Foundation is making a concrete effort to achieve the strict structural and professional conditions that the Lazio region requires to authorize this type of health facility and to provide all the physical, cultural and recreational activities that can foster a balanced return to the joy of living for the people concerned and their families.





## CONNECTED WITH DONORS AND SOCIAL NETWORKS.

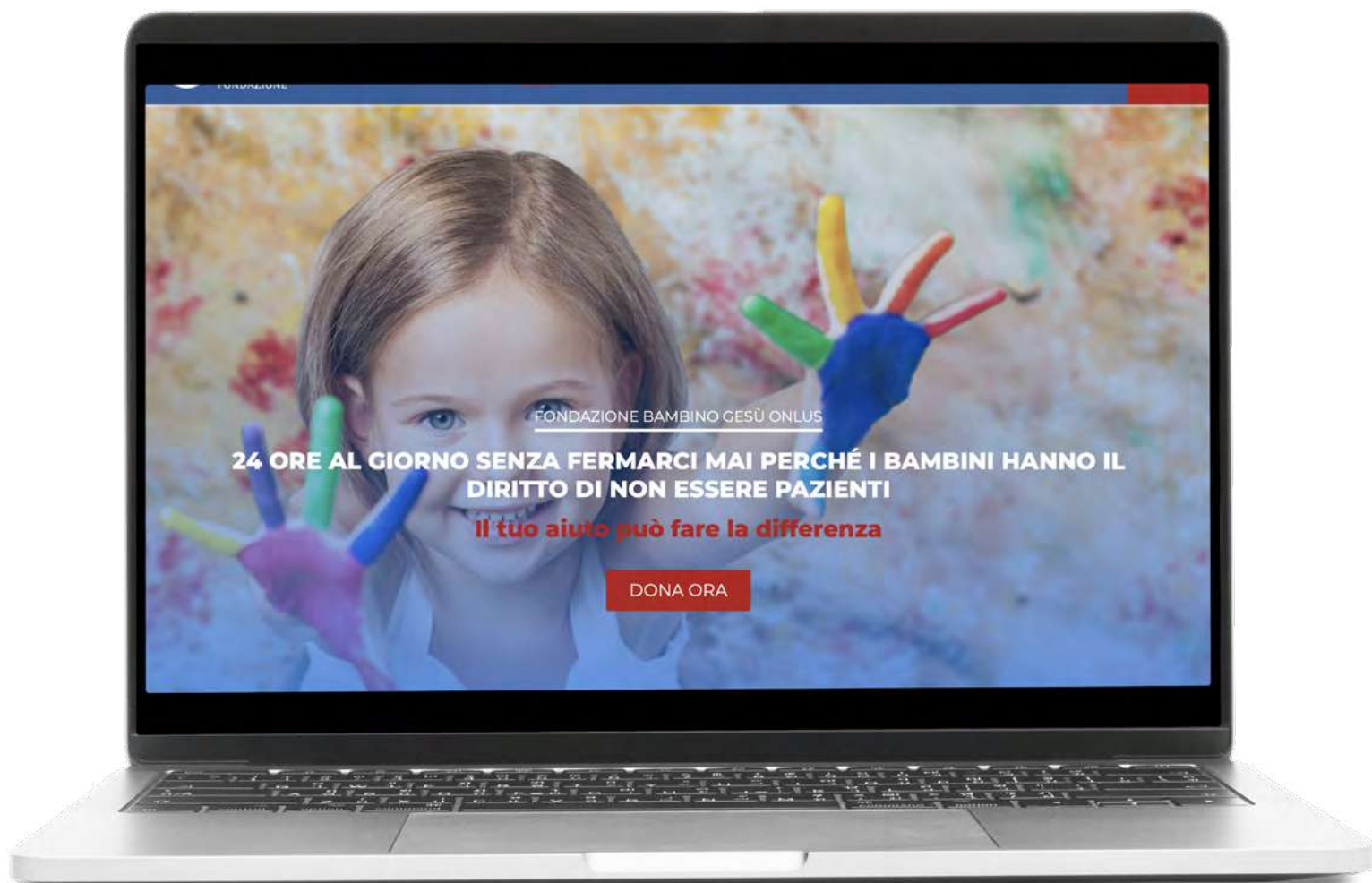
A special project focused on how to communicate with donors and how to raise funds.

Regular visitors to the Foundation's website ([fondazionebambinogesu.it](http://fondazionebambinogesu.it)) will certainly have noticed that the site has been profoundly renewed in terms of graphics, content, and communication methods. In 2020, the Fondazione Bambino Gesù renewed the website by thoroughly updating the browsing methods in order to make it even more accessible to users, with information and news, and simplified online donations using credit card, PayPal and bank transfer.

Three new news items are published each week in the form of editorials, interviews, infographics, specific surveys, research findings, and equipment descriptions. There are also stories of everyday life that, with the support of the Fondazione Bambino Gesù, become the "experience" in the Hospital, a clear testimony

of the humanitarian commitment of the Foundation and the Hospital.

All of the Foundation's fundraising projects are presented, and despite the Pandemic, which has changed the stakeholders' interests, the site has maintained a good number of views. An interesting fact is that more than 75% of users use smartphones to browse the site, a fundamental detail for the growth and implementation of online communication and fundraising activities.





## THE APP.

In early 2021, the Fondazione Bambino Gesù APP was activated. It's a further way to support the Foundation's Projects.

The APP is downloadable from the Apple and Android stores. Easy to use and characterized by lively and eye-catching graphics, in the coming months it will stimulate fundraising, also thanks to a specific promotion online and offline, and a tv advert.

## SOCIAL MEDIA.

The Fondazione Bambino Gesù has been present on the main social networks since 2016.

On the various profiles, depending on their characteristics, the Foundation regularly publishes different types of content and news about its activities and information regarding the Foundation's projects and supported activities, with videos, infographics and photographs. In addition, all authorized fundraising initiatives to support the Foundation are promoted on the website.

Obviously, monitoring the social media involves daily interaction with users, both through profiles and dedicated email accounts.

The Foundation is present on the following channels:



**FondazioneBambinoGesùOnlus**



**fondazionebambinogesu**



**fondazione-bambino-gesù**



**fondbambinogesu**



**Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus**





# BEQUESTS AND MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Those who decide to remember the Bambino Gesù Foundation and Hospital through a bequest or a memorial donation make a gesture that is very valuable and immediately useful for the Children's Hospital.

This activity only began in 2018 and is already bearing fruit.

The first two real estate bequests received in 2018 generated 1,050,000 euros, paid to the Hospital to support the "Frammenti di Luce" project, the human-

itarian care project for children without any form of medical expense coverage, because they are not Italian or European Union citizens and are not supported by humanitarian or charitable organizations.

This growing number of people decide that their lives and hopes can continue in the eyes of people they have never met. Anonymous faces to whom hope in the future is restored.



# THE SOLIDARITY SHOP

For a few years now, the Foundation has taken up the request of numerous supporters to promote a solidarity shop which, in exchange for a donation, is dedicated to providing favours, objects and gadgets, in order to support fundraising projects.

A wedding, a merry occasion or a party are an important symbol of love, and the Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus gives the possibility to hundreds of people to give their solidarity contribution to support many children in difficulty and their families.

A direct and simple way to put one's name to a symbolic gesture of love.

Although it is not part of our plans to promote the sale of objects or gadgets to support humanitarian projects, we

thought of supporting a change in mentality and culture that, in particular circumstances (births, first communions, birthdays, name days, weddings, anniversaries), prefers to mark them with a tangible sign (a wedding favour, a birthday card, a parchment, etc.) for a humanitarian purpose.

Users have understood how such a direct way to share their joy can also become an opportunity for their guests to give hope to many children and young people, by asking them to support their wedding or party solidarity list.

The concreteness of the gesture and of the symbolic object makes the solidarity shop a successful activity, constantly growing over the years, even considering the stoppage due to the Pandemic.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The Foundation's financial statements are approved by the Governing Board and certified by the company Deloitte.

The main data, taken from the relevant financial statements, for the last five years are shown below:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Institutional income	1.863.036	1.975.000	3.176.508	3.828.776	5.496.023
Costs of services	269.193	295.129	414.061	600.654	442.873
Transferred to the Children's Hospital (*)	1.336.134	1.428.547	1.690.885	3.413.874	4.744.736

(\*) also includes expenses that the Foundation pays to third parties for the accommodation of families of long-term patients admitted to hospital.

Institutional income comes from donations from natural and legal persons including the amounts deriving from the acquisition of real property. This income for 2020 amounts to 5,496,023 euros, since this year the Foundation benefited from very significant donations from entities and individuals (through testamentary bequests) who have given their contribution for important research and healthcare projects of the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù.

Among the main contributions from organizations we highlight the following: the Heal Foundation for a project related to neurosurgery oncology, the Association for the Care of Nephropathic Children with a research project on

nephrological diseases, the Knights of Columbus Foundation for a research project on neonatal surgery and the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation of Italy Onlus COVID research project 19.

The borne expenses have remained constant over the five-year period, amounting to 10% of the institutional income, thanks also to the possibility of benefiting from 4 resources made available by the Children's Hospital.

As a result, transfers to the Children's Hospital are also increasing. As shown in this Social Report, the funds sent to the Hospital have been used to support scientific research, the purchase of particularly important equipment, the Welcome programme and humanitarian treatment.

# REPUTATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The significance of a Foundation is measured not only by its financial results, but also by the reputation it manages to achieve among donors, other Foundations, and the international community.

In this regard, a few days ago the Foundation gained an important recognition, which opens up to international scenarios: the ED Equivalency Determination by the U.S. NGO Source, until 2022.



The development achieved by the Foundation in recent years makes it necessary and inevitable to expand its range of action on the international landscape, in the search for possible partnerships and donors who move in a synergistic manner to support initiatives with a global reach worthy of genuine humanitarian, assistance and care scope.

The Foundation's strategic outlook abroad led to the decision to undergo a preliminary evaluation procedure, following stringent standards and require-

ments validated at the international level by a specifically dedicated institution, such as NGO Source; this procedure ended positively for the Foundation, with the recognition, in August 2021, of the Equivalence Determination, according to U.S. ED standards, in the NGO Source platform, until 31/12/2022, equivalent to a U.S. public charity.

This recognition constitutes a very important credential for the Foundation's reputation, and translates into an obvious condition of added value and advantage in the process of opening up to the international donation landscape, and to the United States in particular. This allows the Foundation to present itself more credibly, given the determination of equivalence with American public charities. The Foundation thus becomes a qualified interlocutor towards potential American funders who for years now have embraced the logic of the commitment to "donate" as a correlated burden of restitution and social redistribution with respect to their important achievements and entrepreneurial successes.

# SOCIAL CAMPAIGNS OF THE FOUNDATION

You can support the Fondazione Bambino Gesù's goals with a donation or through the postal account 1000425874 or our bank account: IBAN IT 05 B 03069 05020 100000016223 Banca Intesa Sanpaolo. Both registered to the Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus. For more information: [info.fond@fondbg.it](mailto:info.fond@fondbg.it) 24 hours a day non-stop, because children have the right not to be patients. Follow and support the efforts of doctors, researchers, healthcare workers and those who work every day to give a better quality of life to children and their families. This is our mission, because the health demand of young patients needs immediate answers.





# WELCOME PROJECT


The Fondazione Bambino Gesù has been committed for years to supporting the Welcome Project, dedicated to families with the greatest economic difficulties of patients hospitalized at the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù. It is intended for families from all over Italy and from the most disadvantaged countries in the world who need assistance and support during their children's long stays. We are talking about children suffering from serious pathologies, such as onco-haematological, rare and ultra-rare diseases, or victims of wounds from weapons of war.

The Welcome Project aims to welcome and support patients and their families at the homes of the Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus and some related facilities. Children and Families to whom we intend to give back that little bit of serenity they need to face the difficult time of the disease.

Through this project, the Fondazione Bambino Gesù intends to be the spokesperson for the real needs of patients and their families, offering them moments of normal daily life as far as possible, in which they can feel welcomed in a home "far from home" and therefore even warmer and more welcoming. The dimension of collective hospitality creates precious opportunities for socializing and sharing one's condition. The re-composition of the family for single days or short periods is also facilitated during the stay in the accommodation facilities. Welcoming does not only mean ensuring housing assistance, but also finding some moments of serenity in being welcomed like in a home and not feeling alone and overwhelmed by their children's illness; being open to all cultures,

traditions, religions while respecting diversity; being treated with a relational style based on listening, consideration, recognition, support; being accepted without prejudice with respect to the disease and the situations of origin.





# FRAMMENTI DI LUCE

## (FRAGMENTS OF LIGHT)

This is the name of the social campaign dedicated to hospitality and treatment for humanitarian children. Children suffering from serious illnesses and in need of urgent care that cannot be treated in their countries of origin. They lack any form of coverage of medical expenses, because they are neither Italian citizens nor members of the European Union, nor supported by humanitarian or charitable organizations. A project that intends to implement forms of real and concrete solidarity with countries where the most marginalized populations do not have access to health services and mortality levels are still unacceptable.

Light as a symbol of the social project, able to strengthen the role that each of us has - or can have - in becoming light to support the hospitality and treatment of suffering children from many parts of the world who ask for help from our facilities.



# ABBRACCIA

## LA RICERCA

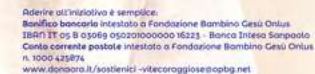
# ABBRACCIA LA RICERCA (EMBRACE RESEARCH)



Bambino Gesù  
FONDAZIONE

This social campaign is dedicated to the possible consequences of the novel Coronavirus in infants and children. In times of health emergency, the name of the Foundation's social campaign wants to emphasize the power and evocative force of an embrace, which we all miss. The same embrace that Research needs in order to grow. We are talking about a social project to support scientific research related to the possible consequences of the novel coronavirus in young patients, with particular attention to observational studies and research on immunopathologies. Abbraccia la Ricerca aims to support specific research projects - and the related implementation of essential medical technologies and equipment - that investigate different sectors to better understand the course of diseases and to be able to administer increasingly personalized and timely therapies. Scientific Research is, as repeatedly stressed, one of the points of excellence of the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù. In this context, the commitment of the Fondazione Bambino Gesù is part of the project, supporting the Hospital in the implementation of major research projects, with particular reference to the current health emergency, as well as in the field of cancer and transplants.





In 2019, the campaign aimed at research for rare and ultra-rare diseases was transformed to benefit education and care for children in their home countries. On the international front, the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù has set up important healthcare cooperation projects in 12 countries

Sostieni anche tu tante Vite Coraggiose

**VITE CORAGGIOSE**

**Bambino Gesù**  
FONDAZIONE

# IO SCELGO IL FUTURO

## (I CHOOSE THE FUTURE)

The social project dedicated to the Bequests Campaign, which was created with the aim to offer answers to the increasingly frequent requests for information on bequests or living donations. At the same time, it gives the opportunity - to those who wish it - to feel protagonist in the construction of a future aimed at giving strength and support to the new generations that turn with confidence to the paediatric institution. The Fondazione Bambino Gesù supports a variety of activities: from scientific research to welcoming patients and families with the greatest difficulties; from the humanitarian care offered to children from many parts of the world, to international missions - to guarantee both health care and the training of medical and nursing staff on site - from technological innovation to clinical assistance. Making a living donation or a testamentary bequest to the Foundation means helping children and young people to walk their path - made more vulnerable by the disease - with courage and hope; it means accompanying and supporting the commitment of doctors, researchers, health workers and those who work daily to give a better quality of life to children - and their families - from all over Italy and the poorest countries in the world.





# MI PRENDO CURA DI TE

## (I TAKE CARE OF YOU)

As has been specified elsewhere in this Social Report, in Italy there are about 35,000 children who unfortunately cannot return home immediately after being admitted to hospital because they need highly specialised care or their parents need to have acquired all the necessary skills to take care of them.

The Lazio Region, interpreting a need that can no longer be postponed, has chosen the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù to activate a Palliative Care Centre, with an initial accreditation of 10 beds dedicated to patients residing in the Lazio Region, and an authorization of an additional 10 beds for patients coming from neighbouring regions. The Paediatric Palliative Care Centre of the Bambino Gesù will be an important outpost in the national healthcare range of services and will respond to the demand

for health and assistance of many families who continue to find no adequate response to their complex needs.

The Fondazione Bambino Gesù has decided to support all the phases of the project, which consists of renovating, in a very short time, a building that, due to its location, is well suited to house a Paediatric Palliative Care Centre. The building is located in Passoscuro, a stone's throw from the Palidoro Hospital, in a well-connected place, able to ensure the discretion and confidentiality that the situation requires.

On 8 September 2021, an agreement was signed to begin work on the new Centre. Mi prendo cura di te is the campaign that in this part of 2021 will raise funds for the Paediatric Palliative Care Centre of the Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù.





Bambino Gesù  
FONDAZIONE



**Bambino Gesù**  
FONDAZIONE

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# SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

You can support the activities  
of the Foundation in favour of the  
Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù through:

## **BANK TRANSFER**

Registered to

the Bambino Gesù Onlus Foundation

IBAN IT 05 B 03069 05020 100000016223

SWIFT CODE: BCITITMM

to Banca Intesa Sanpaolo

## **POSTAL ACCOUNT**

Registered to

Fondazione Bambino Gesù Onlus

N. 1000425874

## **ONLINE**

At [www.fondazionebambinogesu.it](http://www.fondazionebambinogesu.it)

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