



Zanjireh Omid Charity
Chain of Hope
La Chaîne de l'Espoir

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)
Zanjireh Omid International Charity Institute

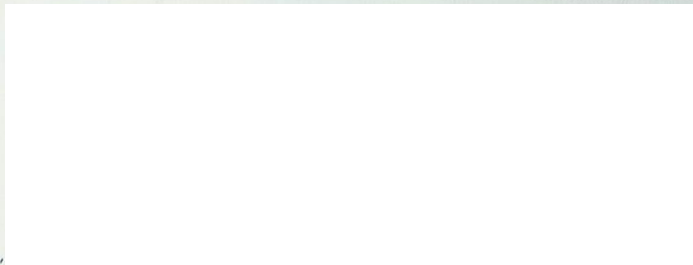
Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent



To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Zanjireh Omid International Charity Institute reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.



Part II. Description of Actions

Founded in 2007, Zanjireh Omid International Charity Institute (sister organization of La Chaîne de l'Espoir organization) provides cost-effective healthcare services in accordance with international standards for children facing cardiac, orthopedic and reconstructive diseases regardless of race, religion or nationality, in order to improve children's health in the geographical area of Iran.

Zanjireh Omid International Charity aims to develop and improve subspecialty pediatric services across the country with the goal of providing specialized treatments in accordance with international standards to all underprivileged children to the point where no child faces death or lifelong disability due to lack of access to improve healthcare services.

Since Zanjireh Omid offers a wide range of medical services, quality comes first in various aspects of the institute's practices. In light of this, volunteer doctors cooperating with this institute are selected with special care. Doctors are interviewed by the academic council of the institute composed of leading academic figures of the country. All of the doctors are selected based on three criteria of specialty, commitment and educational flexibility.

Subspecialty: physicians, who would like to join Zanjireh Omid as volunteers, must hold a subspecialty in orthopedics, cardiac, reconstructive or other fields to be included in future.

Commitment: Considering the fact that patients are from vulnerable social groups suffering from complex disorders, doctors must serve them responsively from beginning to full recovery.

Flexibility in Education: As medical sciences are increasingly developing, volunteer doctors should take part in various academic training courses inside and outside the country and gain latest medical knowledge in their field.

Medical Statistics

Type of Disorder	Number of Iranian Patients	Number of Refugee Patients
Orthopedic	5100	810
Cardiac	3400	1317
Reconstructive	955	293
Sub Total	9455	2420
Total	11875	

Steps involved in admission and treatment process of patients at Zanjireh Omid:

1. a Patient's referral to Zanjireh Omid takes place through other organizations; individuals, general practitioners, hospitals, other charities or self-referral.
2. Upon his referral to the institute, the social work department of the institute creates a medical record for the patient.
3. Examination of a patient is carried out free of charge by volunteer doctors at the institute's clinic.
4. the social workers of the institute or the center where has introduced patients make a home visit to assess the welfare conditions of patients.
5. Following the diagnosis made by Zanjireh Omid's subspecialists, if need be, surgery and complementary therapies will be performed on the patient in one of the hospitals contracted by medical team of Zanjireh Omid institute. the Institute invites French medical teams to Iran in order to perform the surgery on complex cases when necessary.

Since its foundation, Zanjireh Omid has achieved the following accomplishments for the first time in the history of the country:

1. Treatment and surgery of patients with over 100-degree scoliosis via Intraoperative Nerve Monitoring device for the first time in the country
2. Successful surgery of patients with Pectus Excavatum with «NUSS» device for the first time in Iran
3. Treatment of children and newborns affected by Brachial Plexus Birth Palsy with Nerve Transplantation by using Fibrin Glue instead of surgical suture
4. Toe to thumb transplant surgery with Flatt Flap technique for children with no hand finger
5. Treatment of newborns with congenital malformations of cleft palate and/or lip
6. Mortality reduction of newborns with cardiac conditions after surgery. This project led to a considerable decrease in the mortality rate from 23.7% to less than 5 percent and included the following parts:
 - i. Constructing and equipping an NICU and operation room at Children Medical Center,
 - ii. Training the medical staff including nurses, intensivists, doctors, cardiac surgeons and cardiologists in Iran and France;
 - iii. Purchasing new surgical instruments for the operation rooms, and paying bonus salary to the nurses.
7. Establishment and equipment of Zanjireh Omid's Children House with the turnover of 200 patients per month. As a large number of patients demand healthcare services before and after surgery, Zanjireh Omid opened this center to create a safe and proper place for patients and their mothers and to deliver rehabilitation services based on a pediatric protocol, including physiotherapy, physical and mental occupational therapy and speech therapy.

Refugees' Project

To fulfill its mission, Zanjireh Omid has extended its services to refugee children, treating legal, illegal and stateless refugee children and bringing them back to normal life. Since Iran shares a long border with Afghanistan, it hosts one of the largest population of refugees in the world, with approximately 3 million **Afghans** living in the country. The cost of Afghans' treatment, particularly subspecialized treatment, is several times higher than local patients. As per the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, Zanjireh Omid Institute attempts to remove the discrimination these children face due to their national origin. According to the Article 7 of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, nations are required to tackle any sort of discrimination by providing proper conditions for such cases. Having this in mind, it is necessary to find a solution for this challenge under the support of donors and Zanjireh Omid's medical team and hopefully bring these children back to healthy life.

Zanjireh Omid Charity Institute initiated its cooperation with UNHCR through a trilateral agreement in 2013 to treat the underprivileged refugee children. a part of afghans' treatment costs is covered by UNHCR. Zanjireh Omid Charity Institute treats the refugee children who are not supported by UHNCR and provide the rest of their treatment costs.

Hospital Project: Construction of a 540-bed Pediatric Hospital

Zanjireh Omid plans to construct and operate a 540-bed training pediatric hospital based on pediatric subspecialized surgeries along with a Pediatric Rehabilitation Center, Pediatric Trauma Center and a Research Center with an Accommodation Facility Close to the Hospital. This project is being carried out by the support of French APHP team.

According to the ministry of Health records, there are not enough hospital space and bed across the country and there is currently a need for 105,000 beds to accommodate these children in need of extensive surgery. It is reported that it will take around 40 years for the governmental organizations to achieve this goal without asking for any help from the private sectors.

Although many hospitals have been established recently but there are not many children's units available across the country. Thus, children's vulnerable situations within the society makes the construction of a children hospital with an extended bed number, a priority within the country. However, there is also an extensive need for general practitioner and pediatrician to be provided for these hospitals.

In order to overcome the aforementioned problems, Zanjireh Omid (Chain of Hope) has initiated a major project to establish a large children hospital with modern and up to date facilities and top subspecialists in Tehran.

Lack of pediatric subspecialists in Iran is a serious issue which emphasizes the need for establishing a medical and training center. This hospital can provide fellowship courses in different pediatric fields in addition to the healthcare services. Considering the number of beds and focus on subspecialty surgeries, this hospital will be regarded as a referral pediatric hospital.

Adherence to UN Global Compact

Zanjireh Omid International Charity Institute became a signatory to UN Global Compact in 2017 and has embraced the 10 principles of UNGC since then. The Ten principles of UN global compact take into account fundamental responsibilities of businesses and non-businesses in the areas of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. UNGC calls on companies and NGOs to abide by the stated principles within their area of influence, hence the team of the institute strives to embed the Ten Principles into its strategies and operations. Zanjireh Omid has engaged with Global Compact local networks by providing medical services to the underprivileged.; In fact, over 11,600 patients have benefited from the medical services provided by the institute including surgeries, treatment procedures and rehabilitation services since 2007. According to Zanjireh Omid's mission, good health and well-being is considered as one of the main goals of the institute.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Training qualified medical workforce is one of Zanjireh Omid's objectives, the institute provides required facilities for Iranian subspecial pediatricians and surgeons to continue their education and take up fellowship programs. There are two types of training: 1) short-term trainings in Iran including diagnostic clinics and academic lectures 2) and long-term trainings in France including observer and clinical academic courses.

Short-term Training Courses

In short-term training courses La Chaîne de l'Espoir medical teams travel to Iran to visit patients, perform surgeries at partner hospital with cooperation of local medical teams including pediatric surgeons, fellowships, and medical staff, and deliver lectures at academic centers and medical congresses. International medical teams present latest academic achievements in medicine to local doctors by holding academic lectures under the supervision of Iran's Ministry of Health and university faculties.

Short-term trainings are parts of educational and academic practices of Zanjireh Omid International Charity Institute, which involves cooperation between local and foreign volunteer subspecialists, helping them share their experience and impart latest medical techniques and methods to local teams. After selection of complex cases in accordance to their diagnosis and the institute's waiting list, Zanjireh Omid volunteer subspecialists follow up their treatment procedures during the presence of international medical teams. In order to promote the academic level of medical centers, the medical teams sent to Iran by La Chaîne de l'Espoir, deliver lectures at academic and educational events, examine patients at clinics and perform operations during their stay. This cooperation causes to promote the academic level of medical academic center. 127 medical teams in three fields of cardiac, orthopedic, and reconstructive have been sent to Iran since the establishment of the Institute.

Long- term Training Courses

In addition to providing medical services to the children in need, Zanjireh Omid aims to improve the quality of pediatric subspecialty mainly in cardiac, orthopedics, and reconstructive fields. To reach this goal, the institute sends volunteer subspecialists and their medical staff to France to attend clinical and observer courses at medical centers or the academic conferences. After their return, the doctors are responsible to not only treat the children supported by the institute, but also employ their new skills to promote the quality of medical care in pediatrics and pass on their knowledge to their colleagues. It should be mentioned that the travel expenses of local medical teams to France are covered by La Chaîne de l'Espoir and French Embassy of Tehran.

The above cooperation has led to seven accomplishments for the institute.

Zanjireh Omid is the first Iranian charity foundation comprised of an exclusive medical board including Iranian and French subspecialists. 127 French medical teams have travelled to Iran for medical missions, academic trainings and medical cooperation until now. Furthermore, over 130 physicians for observer courses and 3 physicians for clinical courses have been sent to France under the support of French embassy of Tehran. One of key features of Zanjireh Omid is significant reduction in treatment costs while maintaining high quality of care. Zanjireh Omid Institute minimize the treatment costs through medical volunteer teams, management of financial resources, discounts, and use of partnership agreement for long cooperation with medical and social organizations.

Since the foundation of Zanjireh Omid, over 11800 children suffering from orthopedic, cardiac and reconstructive conditions from all over Iran have received medical services. According to the statistics, Zanjireh Omid serves children from all provinces of the country and serves refugees as well.

Zanjireh Omid Institute was granted UN special consultative status by the economic and social council (ECOSOC) on May 1, 2014. Zanjireh Omid Institute now holds UN special consultative status with ECOSOC and continues to improve its services based on the international standards. It should be noted that this consultative status has no financial outcome for this institute.

UNWG Award

UNWG (United Nations Women's Guild) is a non-profit organization which was established in 1970. One of the main goals of UNWG which is based in Vienna is to financially support the underprivileged children. This organization donates grants to institutes every year. Institutes should meet some specific qualifications and criteria to receive this grant. This organization is the sponsor of children who have severe difficulties in education, treatment, health etc. Zanjireh Omid charity institute received a grant for a cardiac project and appreciation certificate titled: Assistance to Iranian Children in 2015.

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP)

Japanese government supports structural projects to meet various needs of developing countries. This program which is called Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects or GGP supports programs offered by NGOs or local government. Zanjireh Omid has received GGP grants three times for structural projects in health care field.

DAP Grant from Australian Embassy

Zanjireh Omid charity institute received DAP Grant to upgrade its office multimedia and IT facilities **in 2018.**