

## COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN

- ASSOCIAZIONE RUVUMA ONLUS ITALY
- MBWENI HOSPITAL UNIT OF ST. JOSEPH UNIVERSITY IN TANZANIA
- CHIRURGO E BAMBINO ONLUS ITALY

**ASSOCIAZIONE RUVUMA ONLUS, LOCATED IN PIAZZA LUIGI DI SAVOIA, 22 - 20124 MILANO REPRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT, DOTT.RODRIGO RODRIQUEZ**

AND

**MBWENI HOSPITAL UNIT OF ST. JOSEPH UNIVERSITY IN TANZANIA MBWENI, DAR ES SALAM, TANZANIA, managed by Sisters of Daughters of Mary Immaculate, DMI. REPRESENTED BY DR.ANANTH T.X.A.**

AND

**CHIRURGO E BAMBINO ONLUS, LOCATED IN ITALY C/O PEDIATRIC SURGERY DEPARTMENT OF THEACHING HOSPITAL OF FERRARA, REPRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT, PROF.ANDREA FRANCHELLA**

### **Background:**

- **Ruvuma Onlus** have worked, for the past 25 years, with the common philosophy to empower the local communities in which they work. Locals are trained so that they may work autonomously and so their projects are self-sustaining.

The mission of these programs, consistent with Ruvuma philosophy, is to go beyond providing humanitarian assistance by transferring international know-how to local teams who are able to function autonomously in their respective professions.

- **Mbweni Hospital**, Unit of St.Joseph University in Tanzania is a Catholic non-profit Pediatric and Maternity Hospital located in Mbweni , North East to Dar es Salam, Tanzania. The hospital has 40 beds and includes: 2 operating rooms for GENERAL surgery, 2 operating theaters for obstetric surgery, a maternity ward, a radiology service, a laboratory, a pharmaceutical service with a pharmaceuticals laboratory, The hospital has only Tanzanian staff and currently employs about 30 people, including doctors, nurses, technicians and support personnel.

Thanks to this mentality, the staff at Mbweni Hospital is entirely composed of Tanzanians who have been trained via local and international collaborations

Mbweni Hospital currently needs to enhance its surgical activity and therefore requires new specialized personnel, especially pediatric surgeons that can ensure a continuous , consistently high quality surgical practice.

- **Chirurgo e Bambino Onlus** aims to promote the advancement of surgical science in the field of pediatric surgery, promote and maintain the highest standards in the quality of surgical treatment provided to children in Italy, protect the prestige and the interests of pediatric surgery and of its practitioners, facilitate relations of fellowship and exchange of ideas among pediatric surgeons. It includes among its members all Italian specialists, from both Universities and Hospitals, in service or not, and maintains a close working

relationship with similar organizations internationally. The Chirurgo e Bambino Onlus is therefore in a position to involve all its potentially interested members to collaborate with the activities of Ruvuma Onlus and of Mbweni Hospital where specific expertise in the field of Pediatric Surgery is required.

Given the above, the parties

**agree:**

### **Article 1 - General Terms and purpose of the collaboration**

The following Agreement sets out the general terms and conditions of the collaboration between the parties as regards all aspects concerning the implementation of the project's objectives

The Parties agree to implement the project "**Pediatric Surgery at Mbweni Hospital Tanzania: training of medical and nursing staff of the Hospital**"

The parties agree to work together and maintain a close working relationship in order to achieve their common objectives and expected results.

The parties mutually agree to promote the development of synergies with other institutional and government entities involved in project initiatives to be approved and implemented by both

### **Article 2 - Description of activities**

The following Protocol activates a medical cooperation between the parties with the object to implement surgical and health practices- in accordance with established International treatment protocols - by Italian Pediatric Surgery specialists. These specialists will be selected by Chirurgo e Bambino Onlus from its members and recruited on a voluntary basis to carry out on-the-job training of Tanzanian staff; in particular surgeons and nurses of Mbweni Hospital:

The project aims to train tanzanian surgeons by sending Italian volunteer surgeons to mbweni, following the procedures specified below. Training will also include collateral activities of the operating rooms such as aspects of post-operative care and ward management.

The parties, via a specifically dedicated Management Board, will plan and coordinate the activities with particular emphasis on identifying the medical and nursing staff to travel to mbweni, defining the training and work programs to be followed;

The Parties agree that the intent of article 2 will be pursued through:

- Identification of training needs of the Tanzanian staff, surgeons and nurses in the Surgery Department and improvement of the organizational procedures and of the clinical audit of the department;
- Adaptation of surgical protocols to the needs of Mbweni Hospital, its surgery department and, in particular, to local resources;
- Updating and improving the skills of local medical staff, surgeons and nurses, in the context of pediatric surgery and postoperative assistance;

### **Article 3 – operational procedures and performance of activities**

The parties will make their facilities, services and resources available in order to achieve their objectives.

In particular:

- A) **Associazione Ruvuma Onlus** in collaboration with DMI will identify two tanzanian surgeons in service at Mbweni Hospital in order to offer them a five-year training course in pediatric surgery through an official announcement.
- B) **Chirurgo e Bambino Onlus** will support the initiative, encouraging the aforesaid training program in favor of the Surgeons and of the Nursing staff of the Mbweni Hospital. **For this purpose the Chirurgo e Bambino Onlus, through its communication tools, will bring to the attention of its members a request for voluntary surgical staff to be employed at the headquarters of Mbweni Hospital continuously throughout the course of the five years of the project until the Tanzanian department is completely autonomous.** The tutor surgeons, selected on the basis of their professional curriculum, among those who answered the call for volunteers, will be presented to **Associazione Ruvuma Onlus** for approval. The tutor surgeons will have to be available for missions of at least one month each and will have to speak English. During their mission, the volunteer tutor surgeons will have to follow the guidelines of the project and the work protocol specified by the Board and signed by the same surgeons before departure and to respect rules and behaviors in line with the guidelines of Associazione Ruvuma Onlus and Chirurgo e Bambino Onlus. **Chirurgo e Bambino Onlus** commits to formalize from time to time with individual volunteering tutor surgeons, any and all appropriate administrative, logistical, insurance and legal aspects concerning their stay and their clinical activity at Mbweni Hospital

Chirurgo e Bambino Onlus ensures the execution of the following additional activities:

- Defining content of the training plans;
- Monitoring performance;
- Checking achieved objectives and learning levels of the Tanzanian professionals.

#### **Article 4 - Scheduling tasks**

For the purposes of Articles 2 and 3, the Parties agree to develop a joint program of activities.

#### **Article 5 - members and function of the project's Management Board**

The Management Board of the project, comprised of the Chairman of Associazione Ruvuma Onlus and the President of Chirurgo e Bambino Onlus or their technical delegates, will monitor and verify the progress of projects / joint programs indicated in Art. 2 and 3 as well as ascertain their full implementation. The Board will collaborate with the medical department of Mbweni Hospital for both organizational and scientific matters.

The board will meet periodically in relation to the needs that will arise from time to time in the course of the project.

#### **Article 6 - Planned activities**

##### **Planned activities for Associazione Ruvuma Onlus**

- Coordinate logistics in Mbweni
- Coordinate all activities and communication with Mbweni Hospital.
- Monitor progress of the project

- Coordinate the project in collaboration with Chirurgo e Bambino Onlus

#### **Planned activities for Chirurgo e Bambino Onlus**

- Recruit and select Italian Pediatric Surgeons, to act as Tutor Surgeons
- Define the content of the training program for the Haitian staff to share with Mbweni Hospital management and the St,Joseph University.
- Collaborate with the Mbweni Hospital to develop the schedule of missions between Haiti and Italy and to ensure the continuity of the project.
- Prepare the Tutor Surgeons leaving for the mission on the established clinical objectives
- Monitoring the progress of the project in terms of educational and clinical expertise.
- Coordinate logistics of the missions to/from Tanzania to Italy

#### **Article 7 – Confidentiality agreement**

Parties must provide advance approval of any and all press releases or communications materials. The parties will share information that may be useful to carry out the project activities of each individual part.

If in the course of activities of joint cooperation the Parties will have access to the other party's administrative, technical and cooperation information, to data related to clinical activities on patients, the Parties undertake to maintain the confidentiality of such information with the same care used to maintain confidentiality and to protect their own information.

The Parties agree to share confidential information with third parties only if necessary to the fulfillment of the project activities described in this Agreement, and only if explicitly authorized by the other Party.

#### **Article 8 - Closing Remarks**

Any changes to this Agreement will be decided by the parties and signed by their legal representatives. Any and all disagreements that may arise between the Parties regarding the present agreement including any dispute concerning their validity, interpretation, performance and / or resolution, will be defined as friendly.

In case the dispute cannot be settled in a friendly matter, it will be settled by institutional judgment to be held in Milan, in Italian and in the manner provided by Italian law.

This agreement has a term of three (3) years from the date of signing.

Following the signing of this Agreement, the Parties will agree on a timetable for the execution of the project.

