

Press Release

## Ukraine: Help for Children with Heart Diseases

The association **kinderherzen** expands its humanitarian aid to rescue children with congenital heart disease in Ukraine.

**Bonn, 23.03.2022 – kinderherzen e.V. establishes a fund to help Ukrainian children with congenital heart disease. From now on suffering children have the support to receive treatment by the German association. Because of the ongoing war, affected girls and boys from Ukraine cannot be treated. Therefore, kinderherzen offers fast and un-bureaucratic help for those children.**

Especially children with congenital heart disease are suffering from the consequences of the war in Ukraine. Heart surgeries in Kiev are now only possible under difficult conditions and operations that are already planned for children are increasingly being postponed indefinitely. **kinderherzen** is more frequently receiving requests for help. These requests come from desperate families from highly affected areas in Ukraine. It is often uncertain whether they will make it to one of the neighboring countries for the vital heart surgery. When arriving there they find overcrowded children's hospitals with care shortages.

Reports from the team around clinic director and head surgeon Professor Illya M. Yemets from the Ukrainian Children's Heart Center in Kiev deliver insights into the situation. **kinderherzen** CEO Jörg Gattenlöhner is in regular contact with doctors and families on the ground. "For weeks, we have all been seeing the terrible pictures from the highly risked areas in Ukraine. Especially increasing is the suffering of families and children. However, most people are not seeing the approximately 45,000 Ukrainian children living with a heart defect. Every day 15 children are born with a congenital heart defect in Ukraine. For us, as **kinderherzen**, it is our obligation to help these children with our expertise. The fund that has been set up is the first effective and uncomplicated action."

At <https://www.kinderherzen.de/spenden-fuer-ukraine/> donors have the opportunity to contribute funding for children with heart diseases from Ukraine. In addition, Children's cardiac institutions have the possibility to apply for financial support. This support is paid by donations from the fund.

For over 20 years, **kinderherzen** is providing comprehensive support for children with congenital heart diseases and their families in Germany. Furthermore, **kinderherzen** has been providing emergency humanitarian aid for children with heart defects in and from war zones and areas of conflict worldwide. In Afghanistan, Yemen, Eritrea or even Romania and El Salvador there is often no adequate cardiac medical care available. So far, **kinderherzen** has been able to save lives of hundreds of children with heart defects. Volunteer teams of the association itself perform the majority of the operations. The association finances some operations and some children have been brought to Germany for surgery. Moreover, these actions should now also specifically benefit the Ukrainian girls and boys.

One in 100 children starts life with a heart condition. **kinderherzen e.V.** has been at their side for over 30 years. We explore new opportunities in pediatric cardiac medicine and provide modern technology and therapies in clinics throughout Germany – so that we can treat young heart patients gently and painlessly. Our help knows no boundaries: For heart children in medically underserved countries our operations are often their only chance. Not only do we save the lives of children with heart defects, we also give them the perspective of a best possible life. As a non-profit organization, we are 100% financed by donations.

**Press Contact:**

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***kinderherzen –***

Fördergemeinschaft Deutsche Kinderherzzentren e.V.  
*Help for children with heart defects since 1989*

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[www.instagram.com/kinderherzen](https://www.instagram.com/kinderherzen)

**Donation Account - Bank für Sozialwirtschaft:**

IBAN: DE47 3702 0500 0008 1242 00

You can contribute donations for children with heart conditions from Ukraine here:

<https://www.kinderherzen.de/spenden-fuer-ukraine/>

Contact for applications for financial support from the aid fund for the treatment of children with a heart disease in Ukraine: [info@kinderherzen.de](mailto:info@kinderherzen.de)

Read about Frishta, one of the children with a heart condition from Afghanistan:

<https://www.kinderherzen.de/herzgeschichten/herzkatheter-eingriff-fuer-frishta-aus-afghanistan/>

More information about our international aid:

<https://www.kinderherzen.de/informieren/kinderherzen-internationale-nothilfe/>

Letters in total: 3.651