

# MONTHLY BULLETIN

AUGUST 2021



# SAUDI CONJOINED TWINS PROGRAMME ACHIEVES MILESTONE WITH 50<sup>th</sup> SUCCESSFUL SEPARATION

 **7.5**  
hours

 **8**  
phases

 **25**  
doctors and  
specialists

Aisha's parents extended their sincere thanks and gratitude to the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for helping their daughter. They praised the Kingdom's generous hospitality, and for making this possible.

On 31 December 1990, the first separation surgery was successfully performed by the Saudi Conjoined Twins Programme team, headed by HE Dr. Abdullah Al Rabeeah. To date, the Saudi Conjoined Twins Programme has reviewed 117 cases of conjoined twins from 22 countries, and 50 successful separations have been performed. The milestone 50th separation was performed on Aisha, a parasitic twin born in Yemen on 1 December 2020. A parasitic twin is a special type of twin whereby the second twin does not fully develop during the gestation period.

Based on the directives of The Custodian of the Two Mosques, King Salman, and HRH the Crown Prince, baby Aisha travelled to Riyadh with her parents when she was just a few weeks old.

Upon arrival at the King Abdullah Specialist Children's Hospital – Ministry of National Guard and Health Affairs, Aisha underwent extensive medical and clinical evaluations. Due to her young age, Aisha needed to gain weight and grow before undergoing the complex separation procedure. After many meetings and reviews, the surgical team led by HE Dr. Abdullah Al Rabeeah decided to perform the separation on 29 July 2021.



"The surgery was the fiftieth successful separation conducted by the surgical team as part of the Saudi Conjoined Twins Programme, which has been treating these special children since 1990 – a period of more than three decades."

**DR. AL RABEEAH**



# THE SAUDI CONJOINED TWINS PROGRAMME

Since its inception in 1990, the Saudi Conjoined Twins Programme has evaluated 117 cases from 22 countries, and the Saudi Conjoined Twins team has conducted 50 successful separation surgeries.



Dr. Abdullah Al Rabeeah's primary interest in treating conjoined twins has always been based upon his belief that every life has value, and he sees his role as a physician and surgeon as one of service to humanity, and this commitment has led to his team's remarkable achievements in the field of conjoined twin separation globally.



**“WE ARE LIVING OFF THE AID WE RECEIVE,”**  
SAID 50-YEAR-OLD HASSAN,  
WHO HAS BEEN DISPLACED IN  
ADEN FOR THE TWO YEARS.

Recent heavy rains caused floods and destroyed his family’s shelter which has a simple structure, made of wooden poles and tarpaulin. “We lost all of our food: sugar, flour and rice,” he said. He couldn’t find a job and he couldn’t afford to rent a house. Thus, he and his family settled in the Ammar Bin Yasser displacement site, which is located in the yard of a school. KSrelief, in partnership with the IOM, distributed shelter kits, which included plastic sheets, wooden poles, wooden plates, hammers, nails, saws and rope, to more than 200 displaced families in Aden that were affected by the floods. “Now, we received these pieces of wood and we will rebuild all over again,” explained Hassan. Rebuilding sturdier shelters will help displaced families protect themselves from extreme weather conditions.

# SUPPORTING THE VICTIMS OF FLOODS



When torrential rains and flooding hit an already poor area, they damage houses and caused the displacement of families. KSrelief strives to help the flood-affected families with food and shelter support.

 **AL MAHRAH,  
YEMEN**



Urgent shelter assistance was provided to displaced families affected by catastrophic flooding, including tents, rugs, blankets and shelter kits.

 **AL QADARIF,  
SUDAN**



**500** food baskets and **291** shelter kits were provided for **3,000** beneficiaries.

 **GILGIT-BALTISTAN,  
PAKISTAN**



**1,000** food baskets were distributed to support **7,000** beneficiaries.



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