

MOI SURGERY REPORT - 30 CHILDREN WITH HYDROCEPHALUS AND SPINA BIFIDA



30TH JULY 2026

PROJECT CATEGORY: HEALTH

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LALJI FOUNDATION & BARAKA FOUNDATION

Committed to Community Development,

Project Category – Health – Spina bifida and hydrocephalus

Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region,

Date: 30TH July 2026,

Venue: Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute Hospital, Dar es Salaam. (MOI)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lalji Foundation is a Tanzanian Non-Governmental Organization committed to improving the lives of vulnerable individuals and communities through sustainable social and development initiatives. The Foundation works to address key community needs while promoting dignity, inclusion, empowerment, and equal opportunities for all.

The Foundation implements projects in several key areas, including **health, education, economic empowerment, women empowerment, social welfare, and access to clean water**. Through these interventions, Lalji Foundation provides practical support to communities and individuals who face social and economic challenges.

Baraka Foundation Canada is a charitable organization registered in Canada committed to supporting vulnerable individuals and communities through humanitarian, health, and social development initiatives. The Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life of people facing social, physical, and economic challenges by providing practical support and working with partners to address identified community needs.

Lalji Foundation, in collaboration with Baraka Foundation Canada, supported life-changing surgical treatment for 30 children living with spina bifida and hydrocephalus at the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) in Dar es Salaam. The initiative was undertaken to support vulnerable children who require surgery and specialized medical care to improve their health, mobility, development, and overall quality of life.

Spina bifida is a neural tube defect that develops very early in pregnancy. Factors associated with increased risk include: Insufficient folic acid before and during early pregnancy, Certain genetic factors, Some medications, particularly certain anti-seizure medicines, during pregnancy, maternal diabetes that is not well controlled, Certain environmental and nutritional factors.

Hydrocephalus occurs when cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) accumulates in the brain, causing enlargement of the ventricles and potentially increased pressure. Causes can include: Congenital abnormalities affecting the flow or absorption of CSF, infections affecting the brain, including meningitis, bleeding in or around the brain, particularly in premature babies, Brain tumors or other conditions that block CSF circulation.

Spina bifida and hydrocephalus are conditions that can significantly affect a child's physical development and daily life if appropriate medical intervention is not provided. Many families face financial challenges in accessing specialized treatment and surgery. Through this initiative, Lalji Foundation and Baraka Foundation helped reduce the financial burden on families and enabled eligible children to receive the medical attention they needed.

In Tanzania, general statistics estimated that more than 7,500 children are born each year with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus. However, access to treatment remains limited, with many children requiring surgery, rehabilitation, and long-term care.

The project focused on facilitating surgical procedures, medical care, and related hospital services for the identified beneficiaries. The support was provided in collaboration with MOI medical professionals, who assessed the children and delivered the required treatment based on their individual medical needs.

The initiative demonstrates the commitment of Lalji Foundation and Baraka Foundation to supporting **children with special needs and vulnerable families**. By investing in specialized healthcare, the organizations aim to improve children's chances of living healthier and more independent lives while reducing the challenges faced by their families.

Dr Irene Mtaguzina, representative of MOI, expressed her sincere appreciation to the Lalji Foundation and the Baraka Foundation Canada for their valuable support in funding surgeries for children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus at the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) in Dar es Salaam. She highlighted that the financial support has helped children access specialized medical treatment that may otherwise have been difficult for their families to afford.

Sofia Nasson, community development officer (MOI), expressed her appreciation to Lalji Foundation and Baraka Foundation for their continued support of children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus. She acknowledged the foundations' contribution toward improving access to treatment, rehabilitation, and mobility support, and encouraged the continuation of the partnership to reach and support more children in need.

Mr. Muhamad Damji, Vice Chairman of Lalji Foundation, expressed appreciation to Baraka Foundation Canada for partnering with Lalji Foundation and thanked the medical team at MOI for their dedication and professional care. He emphasized that the two Foundations will continue working together to support vulnerable children and strengthen access to specialized healthcare services in Tanzania.

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate access to life-saving surgical procedures for children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus.
- To support children from financially disadvantaged families who require specialized treatment.
- To contribute towards the cost of surgery, hospitalization, and essential medical care.
- To improve children's physical health and support their long-term development and well-being.
- To reduce the risks and complications associated with delayed treatment.
- To provide families with financial relief and emotional support during the treatment process.
- To demonstrate the commitment of Lalji Foundation and Baraka Foundation Canada to improving healthcare for vulnerable children.
- To strengthen partnerships with MOI and medical professionals in providing specialized healthcare services.

3. EVENT OVERVIEW

Parameter	Details
Location:	Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute
Preparation Date:	15 th June 2026 – 30 th July 2026
Handover Date:	30 th July 2026
Target Group:	children - spina bifida and Hydrocephalus
Organized by Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute	

4. PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

S/N	Partner/ Stakeholders	Role/ Contribution
1.	Lalji Foundation	Project/Donor
2.	Baraka Foundation	Donor
3.	MOI – Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute	Project

5. OUTCOMES & IMPACT

SN	Key Indicators	Number of beneficiaries
1.	Children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus	30
	TOTAL	30

6. BUDGET & EXPENDITURE

SN	ITEMS	BUDGETED (TZS)	EXPENDITURE
1.	Surgeries - MOI	10,000,000/=	8,000,000
2.	Additional MOI surgeries		2,000,000
3.	Photographer and Media		100,000
	TOTAL		10,100,000

7. CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

- High cost of specialized surgeries, which makes treatment difficult for many families to afford.
- Limited financial resources among families of children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus.
- High demand for specialized medical services, resulting in more children requiring support than available resources can cover.

- Delayed access to treatment for some children due to financial and logistical difficulties.
- Limited awareness among some families and communities about the importance of early diagnosis and treatment.
- Long-term care requirements, as some children may need continued medical follow-up and rehabilitation after surgery.
- Transportation and accommodation challenges for families travelling from distant areas to Dar es Salaam for treatment.
- Need for continued donor support to sustain and expand the number of children benefiting from surgical interventions.

8. IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

- Improved access to specialized healthcare: Children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus were able to receive essential surgical treatment at MOI.
- Improved health and well-being: The surgeries helped address serious medical complications and improve the children's overall health.
- Reduced financial burden on families: Support from Lalji Foundation and Baraka Foundation helped families manage the high cost of specialized surgeries and related medical services.
- Improved quality of life: Successful treatment gives children better opportunities for growth, development, education, and participation in daily activities.
- Reduced risk of complications: Timely surgical intervention can help prevent or reduce complications associated with untreated conditions.
- Increased hope among families: The project provided encouragement and relief to parents and caregivers who faced difficulties accessing treatment for their children.
- Strengthened healthcare partnerships: The collaboration between Lalji Foundation, Baraka Foundation Canada, and MOI strengthened joint efforts to support children with special medical needs.
- Promoted inclusion and dignity: The project contributed to ensuring that children with special needs receive appropriate healthcare and are given an opportunity to live more independent and fulfilling lives.

9. MEDIA COVERAGE

S N	Platform	Details	Type	Link / Reference
1.	Television	IBN, Channel 10, ITV	Events news features	
2.	Social media & Blogs	▪ Instagram ▪ Facebook ▪ YouTube	Photos, live and updated News paper	Daily News Monday, August 3, 2026. The Guardian, Monday, 3 August 2026

10. CONCLUSION

The collaboration between **Lalji Foundation and Baraka Foundation Canada** in supporting surgeries for children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus at **Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI), Dar es Salaam**, has made a meaningful contribution to improving access to specialized healthcare for vulnerable children. The project helped reduce the financial burden on families and enabled affected children to receive essential surgical treatment. Beyond the medical benefits, the initiative provided hope to families and created opportunities for children to improve their health, development, and quality of life.

Lalji Foundation and Baraka Foundation need to continue this collaboration with MOI to help more Children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus improve their overall quality of life.

11. RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

LIST OF PATIENTS SPONSORED BY LALJI FOUNDATION

S/NO.	PATIENT NAME
1	Manawar A Kaluwale
2	Njimo Luhende Duba
3	Gabriel Samson Emmanuel
4	Evelina Meneradi Gabriel
5	Asumini Shabani Faraji
6	Fridaus Hamisi Kombo
7	Evance J Msigala
8	Faheem Isaack Mfinanga
9	Rihan Yussuf Hamid
10	Shadrack Richard Vicet
11	Abdul Rajabu Miraji
12	Ramla Mustafa Sinda
13	Brighton Hendry Joseph
14	Diyana Jacobo Mboma
15	Gregory Leonard Mande
16	Muniri I Mussa
17	Ramadhani Juma Dango
18	Said kassim Kindile
19	sharifu boka salim
20	Husna Abduhaman Nyumba
21	Frank Adolf
22	Juma mohammed
23	Mariam Juma ali
24	Irene John
25	Thomas simon
26	Hadija musa hamisi
27	Grace peter
28	Lilian felix
29	Halima Abdallah
30	Shabani Juma Yusuf



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
EXCHEQUER RECEIPT
STAKABADHI YA MALIPO YA SERIKALI

RECEIPT NUMBER	926125434892806
RECEIVED FROM	LALJI FOUNDATION
AMOUNT	TZS 8,000,000.00
AMOUNT IN WORDS	EIGHT MILLION
IN RESPECT OF	ADVANCE-OP
BANK REFERENCE	CB26050552335674
CONTROL NUMBER	995730806804
PAYMENT DATE	May 5, 2026
ISSUED BY	MUHIMBILI ORTHOPAEDIC INSTITUTE
DATE ISSUED	May 5, 2026
SIGNATURE	





National Bank of Commerce

Conveniently Everywhere.

Date: 05/05/2026

Time: 14:15:28

Terminal ID

41080

SUCCESS (GEPG)
AMOUNT TZS 8,000,000.00

Reference/Slip no. 612514164090
Depositor Mobile# 255782444786
Bill Reference No. 995730806804
Pay Mode CASH

Company/Client Name
Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute
Description

SPONSORSHIP FOR HDC AND SPINAL BI
FIDA

Bill Amount TZS 8,000,000.00
Amount Entered TZS 8,000,000.00
Receipt Number 926125434892806
Depositor Name LALJI FOUNDATION
Bank Reference CB260505523356 /4

Partnership strengthens access to Tanzania's child specialised healthcare

BY RILEY MWA
Reporter

Investment in the health care of children has been a priority for the Tanzanian government since the country's independence in 1962.

As a result, the country has made significant progress in the health care of children, particularly in the area of immunisation.

The Ministry of Health has been successful in its efforts to increase the coverage of immunisation for children, particularly in the area of polio.

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Dr. Amina Mwangi (second from left) is a specialist treating children with hydrocephalus and other deficits at the Muhimbili Children's Hospital (MCH), Kilifi Regional Hospital, Kilifi District, Kilifi. Vice-Chairman of the LALB FOR/SHEDS, during a visit to the pediatric ward where children awaiting treatment and surgery are admitted.

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and administrative support of advanced systems. Similarly, experience in the field is essential for the proper functioning of the system.

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30 children receive life-changing surgeries at MOI

By Gordon Hughes

THIRTY children living with spine defects and hydrocephalus have undergone successful surgical operations at the Mahan 100 Orthopaedic Institute in the Lebanon.

The results of the operations fully funded through a joint sponsorship by the Congressional Saudi Foundation and the Saudi Life Foundation, delivered critical life-saving care to vulnerable families who could not otherwise afford the costly procedures.

The surgical procedures targeted two severe congenital conditions: scoliosis operations to repair spinal defects in infants born with spine defects, and neurosurgical shunts to relieve skull pressure building up in the brain in children suffering from hydrocephalus.

Highlighting the clinical impact, paediatric specialist Dr Iwan Hignett noted that the institute has provided much-needed relief to young patients while significantly easing the severe financial strain experienced by low-income households requiring long-term medical care.

Beyond immediate surgical interventions, health experts emphasised the urgent necessity of primary prevention in Hignett.



Muhammad Dhanji, Laji Foundation

Who-Chairman emphasised that public education is essential to combating avoidable congenital disorders...

He underscored that neural tube defects like spina bifida are closely tied to maternal nutritional deficiencies, especially inadequate levels of folic acid.

The report stressed such care is not only essential for maternal proper prenatal management and advice to consumption of folic acid supplementation to reduce birth defects.

Muhammad Dhanji, Laji Foundation Vice-Chairman, emphasised that public education is essential to combating avoidable congenital disorders across the country.

He explained that the surgical operations form part of a long-term developmental partnership with the Saudi Foundation aimed at enhancing community health education, and would not have intervention to improve quality of life for underserved populations across Lebanon.

12. PHOTOS HIGHLIGHTS





Muhammed Damji, Vice Chairman of Lalji Foundation



Dr Irene Mtaguzina MOI (Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute)





One of the parents of beneficiaries

