

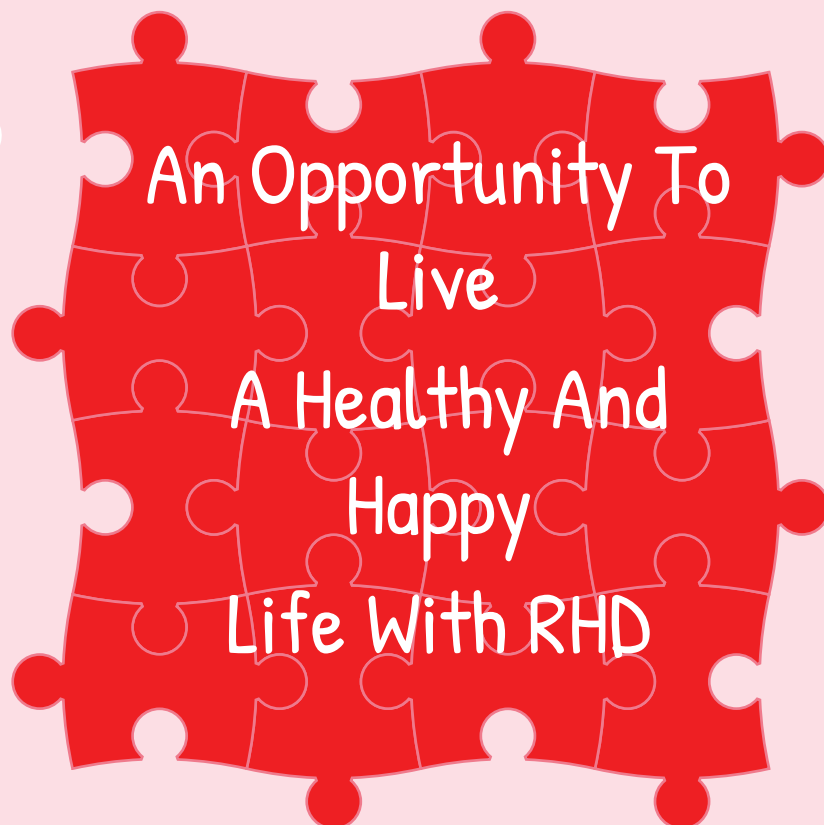
What are the Rights of the Child Living with Rheumatic Heart Disease?

All children around the world should have, or be able to have the same rights. These rights are provided for by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) 1989.

The United Nations recognises that as a child you should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society and be brought up in the spirit of happiness, love, understanding, peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity.

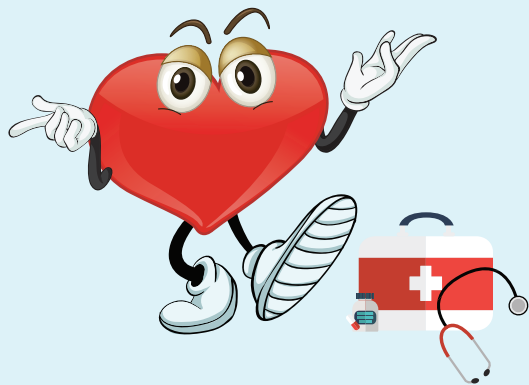
As a child living with rheumatic heart disease (RHD) you have the right “to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health”. It is the responsibility of the international community to ensure that countries “strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services”.

Children, young people and their families living with rheumatic heart disease and other chronic health conditions in low- and middle-income countries ask for help with five key action areas. Fortunately, UNCROC recognises these needs as the rights of children.



What do families and young people living with rheumatic heart disease ask for?

"We need affordable access to medicine and equipment"



Your rights and responsibilities under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC)

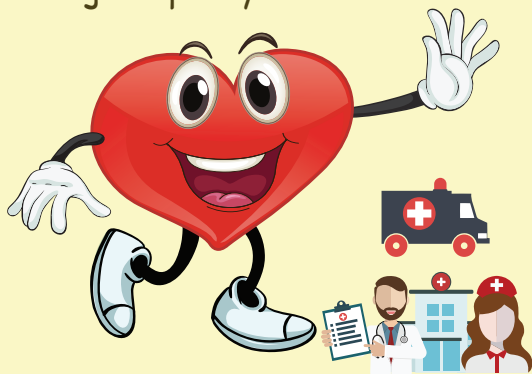
- ♥ The inherent right to life (Article 6).
- ♥ Governments recognise that a child living with a mental or physical disability should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate your active participation in the community and ensure access to health care services and rehabilitation services (Article 23).
- ♥ The right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and facilities including the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care (Article 24).

"We need more education, research and advocacy"



- ♥ The right to express your views and be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings that affect your rights (Article 12).
- ♥ The right to information and material aimed at promoting your physical and mental health and to ensure appropriate guidelines to protect you from information and material that is injurious to your wellbeing (Article 17).
- ♥ The right to be informed, have access to education and be supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition (Article 24).
- ♥ The right to education directed at the development of your personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest potential and the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms (Article 29).
- ♥ Governments commit to making your rights in UNCROC available to you (Article 42).

"All kids need access to good quality health care"



- ♥ Governments shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for your care (Article 18).
- ♥ Governments recognise that a child living with a mental or physical disability should enjoy a full and decent life...and opportunities in a manner conducive to you achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development (Article 23).
- ♥ The right to a standard of living adequate for your physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development... including through material assistance and support programs (Article 27).

¹CLAN (Caring & Living As Neighbours) is an Australian non-government organisation committed to equity for children and young people living with rheumatic heart disease and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Families CLAN works with consistently request collaborative focus around five key pillars to help their children enjoy the highest quality of life possible. These five pillars are the intellectual property of CLAN.

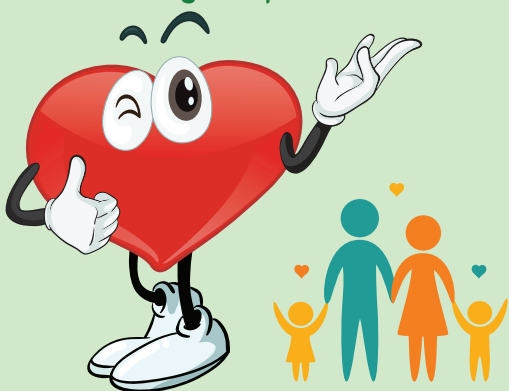
Further information about CLAN's community development approach is available at www.clanchildhealth.org.

For more information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) please visit www.unicef.org/crc

What do families and young people living with rheumatic heart disease ask for?

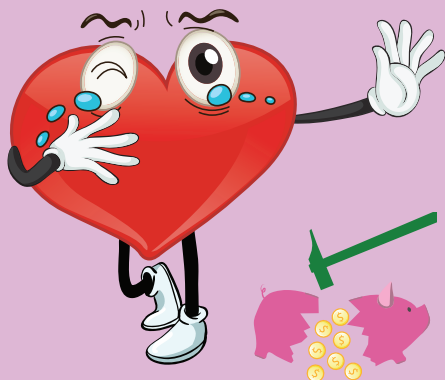
Your rights and responsibilities under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC)

"Family support group meetings help us a lot"



- ♥ You and your family have the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights (Article 5).
- ♥ The right to freedom of association (Article 15).
- ♥ Governments recognise that a child living with a mental or physical disability should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate your active participation in the community...and the right of the child living with a disability to special care, subject to available resources, for you and those responsible for your care (Article 23).

"We are poor - my family needs financial independence"



- ♥ Governments shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognised in the present Convention ... to
- ♥ The maximum extent of their available resources and where needed, within the framework of international co-operation (Article 4).
- ♥ The right to benefit from social security, including social insurance (Article 26).
- ♥ The right to a standard of living adequate for your physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development (Article 27).
The right to education (Article 28).



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RHD Action

United to End Rheumatic Heart Disease



**WORLD HEART
FEDERATION®**



#RheumaticHeartDisease #EVERYchild #RHD
#LeaveNoChildBehind #Access2Medicines

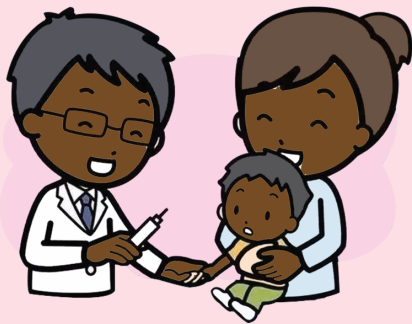
Fast facts about rheumatic heart disease

Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) is a chronic heart condition caused by rheumatic fever.

Rheumatic fever is a complication of untreated strep throat caused by bacteria called group A streptococcus. RHD is completely preventable, and yet it is the most common acquired heart disease affecting children (amongst 5 to 15 year olds) in developing countries. It is estimated that approximately 15 million people are affected globally with 233,000 people dying annually.

The main symptoms of acute rheumatic fever (ARF) include fever, muscle aches, swollen and painful joints, and in some cases, a red rash. Rheumatic fever usually occurs as a result of an untreated strep throat or skin infections that are caused by bacteria called group A streptococcal (strep) infection. RHD is closely linked with poverty and ineffective health systems.

Rheumatic heart disease can be prevented.



Why do children living with rheumatic heart disease (RHD) need lab tests, echocardiography, benzathine penicillin and other supplies?

- ♥ A.S.O.T. test is essential in detection of strep sore throats
- ♥ Echocardiography is needed to diagnose valvular involvement in rheumatic heart disease
- ♥ Monthly benzathine penicillin injections are required to prevent recurrent strep sore throats in children with rheumatic fever/RHD
- ♥ Children with valvular incompetence need required cardiology reviews, and valve repairs or replacements. This is often unaffordable for most children with RF/RHD since they come from poor backgrounds

RHD requires specialized care, which in most developing countries, is only accessible in the capital cities and a few urban centres. Even in such places, availability of services at public hospitals is limited due to inadequate numbers of cardiologists or lack of necessary diagnostic and treatment facilities.

- ♥ Widespread education and awareness programs are needed to fast-track eradication of RHD.