

DECEMBER 2023

# Smile Train Africa

Quarterly Newsletter (*the Omnibus edition*)



**WE MADE HISTORY!**  
**SMILE TRAIN ACHIEVED A GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS® TITLE FOR THE LARGEST ONLINE PHOTO ALBUM OF SMILING MOUTHS, COLLECTING A TOTAL OF 21,274 SMILES FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE!**

The announcement came on World Smile Day® (October 6) at a celebration event at the Worcester Historical Museum in Worcester, Massachusetts -- home of Harvey Ball, creator of the iconic smiley face.

A GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS® adjudicator verified the results and presented Smile Train and our corporate partner Dentsply Sirona with Official Record Holder certificates.

Dentsply Sirona also donated \$120,000 to Smile Train to set the world record.

**We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as we loved putting it together! Share your feedback to [emanjeru@smiletrain.org](mailto:emanjeru@smiletrain.org).**



🎉 Join us in congratulating Mrs. Nkeiruka Obi, Smile Train Vice President and Regional Director for Africa, for being nominated as a 2023 MIPAD 100 (Most Influential People Of African Decent) Honoree under Health and Wellness.

She received the award during the Most Influential 100 Recognition Week in New York City after the opening of the 78th #UNGA.

Thank you, Mrs. Obi, for championing improved service delivery in surgical and anaesthesia care among the underserved communities.



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## **SMILE TRAIN HAD A STRONG PRESENCE AT THE 2023 WOMEN DELIVER CONFERENCE (JULY 17-20) IN KIGALI, RWANDA.**

Smile Train hosted a spectacular 3-part side event with a discussion on redefining the space for women in surgical care in Africa. It consisted of a panel, an interview and a Ted-style talk. The panel was moderated by Smile Train President and CEO Sussanah Schaefer and comprised Miriam Nabie (Nutritionist, Kenya) Anne Mulwa (Nursing Director, Kenya) Dr. Georges Natakiryuta (Surgeon, Rwanda). This was followed by gender equality champions Zozibini Tunzi (former Miss Universe) and Rachel Mugorewase (beneficiary).



Dr. Elizabeth Igaga (Director, Program Safety) concluded the side event with a compelling speech on the importance of mentorship. The Conference also saw Dr. Igaga receive her well-deserved Heroines of Health Award amid moving remarks and much fanfare! of program.

## **SMILE TRAIN PROGRAMS IN RWANDA**

Smile Train has been running a cleft surgery program in Rwanda since 2006. We have so far provided over 3,200 FREE cleft surgeries to patients unable to afford treatment in Rwanda 1,017 of which were done between 2012-2016 when we signed a four-year MoU with the Ministry of Health.

Smile Train has also been instrumental in training 3 more plastic surgeons from Rwanda who graduated in December 2022 and has also supported capacity-building initiatives for the 2 existing plastic surgeons through support to cleft conferences and continuous plastic surgery training and experience.





## MISS UNIVERSE SPAIN, ATHENEA PÉREZ, GETS FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE OF THE IMPACT OF SMILE TRAIN PROGRAMS ON THE LIVES OF PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

She visits 7-year-old Anamaria, a Smile Train cleft palate surgery beneficiary from Equatorial Guinea.

AnaMaria was born with a cleft palate. Thanks to an awareness campaign carried out, her mother learned of the cleft program at the Smile Train partner hospital, Nuevo Inseso, which provided free cleft surgery to AnaMaria and 29 other patients.

The visit to AnaMaria's home together with the Medical Director and his team from Nuevo Inseso, helped Miss Universe Spain to connect with AnaMaria and her friends, gaining a deeper understanding of the significance of Smile Train programs in the lives of patients and their families.



Through collaborations with the Miss Universe Organization, Smile Train continues to raise awareness about clefts. Ms Perez called on the local community to shun the stigma against patients with clefts.



## SURGICAL INSTRUMENT REPAIR TECHNICIAN (SIRT) DR CONGO PILOT PROGRAM (2ND SIRT TRAINING IN THE CA REGION)

9 Participants from 5 Partner Hospitals in the Democratic Republic of Congo obtained a solid education in the methodology of surgical instrument refurbishment, sterile processing fundamentals, and supply/inventory management. This program provides the skills for level 1-3 repairs on surgical instruments listed in the curriculum.



## **WORLD SMILE DAY CELEBRATION WITH NYERI COUNTY REFERRAL HOSPITAL IN KENYA .**

The event aimed to raise awareness for the upcoming surgical outreach program where over 40 patients received free cleft surgery.

The County Executive Committee Member of the Department of Medical and Health Services, Dr Joseph Maina Kiragu, graced the occasion and urged communities to stop stigmatizing individuals with clefts. He also called upon Community Health Promoters to improve awareness and referral systems for patients who are being hidden.



## **SMILE TRAIN ORGANIZED FAMILY FUN DAY TO CELEBRATE WORLD SMILE DAY IN ZIMBABWE**

Smile Train, partnered with the Global Cleft and Cranio-facial Foundation to organize a free family and fun day to celebrate World Smile Day.

Patients from Harare and all over Zimbabwe, both treated and untreated, attended the event.

The day was hosted by Dr. Wayne Manana and featured an interactive nutrition session led by Smile Train-trained nutritionist Faith Kamazizwa and psychosocial support.

## **WORLD SMILE DAY CELEBRATIONS BROUGHT SMILE TRAIN PARTNERS AND PATIENTS TOGETHER IN BAMAKO - MALI AT THE FANTA DABO CLINIC.**

The occasion was filled with joy and happiness as cleft patients and their caregivers received gifts and engaged in meaningful interactions with the partners.

It was a heartwarming event that highlighted the importance of spreading kindness worldwide.





## SMILE TRAIN AFRICA GRADUATES 7 FELLOWS AT THE FIRST ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY CANECSA

Warm congratulations to the seven Smile Train supported Fellows who recently graduated from the College of Anaesthesiologists for East Central and Southern Africa program.

(Left to right) Dr Kenneth Tomanya, Dr Roleen Dadirai Mushamba, Dr Alice Dozva, Dr Harunavamwe Chifamba (faculty member), Dr Rudoshware Gumbo, Dr Ruvimbo Barna, Dr Philo Namboozie, and Dr. Cedric Zhaneiro.

Thank you for demonstrating your genuine commitment to improving anaesthesia care in your respective countries.

The graduation ceremony took place in Harare, Zimbabwe, during the First Annual Scientific Conference organized by CANECSA under the theme was "Breaking New Ground: Integrating Anaesthesia in the Era of Cancer & Non-Communicable Diseases."



## HIGHLIGHTS OF SMILE TRAIN AFRICA AT THE 23RD ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY COSECSA

Smile Train organized a side event themed "Propagating Innovations to Improve Multidisciplinary Cleft Care" showcasing our "Teach a man to fish" model when it comes to advocating for prioritizing National Surgical plans in Primary Health Care for Health Systems Strengthening, fostering multidisciplinary Cleft Care to improve patient outcomes, and establishing research infrastructure on global health priorities and policy. Special appreciation to our partners for their collaboration, which reaffirms the power of partnerships in comprehensive cleft care.

Before the conference, Smile Train organized a Simulare Workshop on November 27th, which was well attended and appreciated for its innovative approach to enhancing quality outcomes in surgery.

Smile Train hosted a cocktail reception for the 2023 Fellows who received scholarships to pursue their COSECSA Fellowship in Plastic Surgery. Congratulations again to the 2023 cohort of Smile Train-COSECSA Fellows, three Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellows: Dr. Bright Shoko (Zimbabwe), Dr. Thandiwe Munaiwa and Dr. Mildred Nakazwe (Zambia), and pediatric surgeon, Dr. Nereah Aruwa (Kenya). Dr. Aruwa was sponsored under the Smile Train-KidsOR collaboration.





## NSOANP NIGERIA COMMENDED FOR CHAMPIONING QUALITY SURGICAL AND ANAESTHESIA CARE

Smile Train has commended the Nigeria National Surgical Obstetrics Anaesthesia and Nursing Plan (NSOANP) for championing quality surgical and anaesthesia care in Africa.

Speaking during the National Stakeholders forum in Abuja, Smile Train Vice-President and Regional Director for Africa Mrs. Nkeiruka Obi noted that the investment and consistency of implementing the NSOANP has put Nigeria on the map in advocating for quality surgical services. She called upon stakeholders to leverage collaboration and innovation in elevating quality cleft care within the local community.

*"Smile Train is proud to support the implementation of the NSOANP, which has put Nigeria on the map as a benchmark for other countries across Africa. This is a win for our nurses on the frontline of healthcare, a victory for surgeons who are well-equipped to handle pediatric surgery as well as our anaesthesia providers. The small steps that bring us together are a win for our health heroes. The success of the NSOANP creates an advocacy platform as we play our part in achieving Universal Health Coverage."*



## CAMA AWARDS NIGERIA 2023 WINNERS UNVEILED AT THE NSOANP AND CLEFT CARE STAKE HOLDERS FORUM.

Join us in celebrating the winners of the 2023 edition of the Cleft Awareness Media Award (CAMA Nigeria 2023).

The winners are:

EPEDIMBU KAREN of AIT (1st), LARA ADEJORO of Punch Newspaper Online (2nd) and BLESSING OMECHE EBUTE of NTA News (3rd)

The CAMA Awards have been running for three consecutive years, and seek to honour and recognize outstanding contributions of the media in cleft awareness, as well as honour the leadership, service, knowledge, and practice of media in health reporting.

The awards were presented during the National Surgical, Obstetrics, Anaesthesia & Nursing Plan (NSOANP) and Cleft Care Stakeholders Forum held in Abuja.

Congratulations to all the laureates!

## SMILE TRAIN - LIFEBOX LAUNCH CAPNOGRAPHY ON WORLD ANAESTHESIA DAY

Smile Train and Lifebox Foundation have collaborated to address a crucial issue in safe anaesthesia by offering Capnography to patients undergoing surgery in areas with limited resources.

Through a partnership with industry leader Zug Medical Systems, Smile Train and Lifebox have developed the first-ever high-quality, user-friendly, and cost-effective capnograph with reliable battery life.

The Capnograph will be installed in 350 low-resource operating rooms in Benin, Ethiopia, the Philippines, and Uganda. The initiative also includes training for anaesthesia staff on the proper use of the device. This endeavour is part of the Smile Train-Lifebox Safe Surgery and Anesthesia Initiative, which aims to enhance the safety of pediatric anaesthesia and surgical care in low- and middle-income nations.





DECEMBER 2023

## ROUND THE CONTINENT IN IMAGES



### Madagascar Train and Train, Speech Therapy and Psychosocial Camp



SmileTrain launched the Pan-African Training in Paediatric Anaesthesia (PATA) program in partnership with The ELMA Foundation and Vanderbilt University Medical Center.



### Smile Train – Lifebox Capnography Launch