

SMILE TRAIN AFRICA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April-June 2024

Smile Train provides free cleft surgeries and comprehensive cleft care across 42 countries in Africa, with 230+ active partners and 390+ treatment centres. Since 2002, Smile Train's local medical partners have provided more than 170,000 life-changing cleft surgeries across the continent.

Our Comprehensive Cleft Care (CCC) services include psychosocial support, nutrition, surgery, speech therapy, orthodontics, ENT and dental care.

We elevate local medical capacity, raising the safety and quality of surgical and anaesthesia care by offering curriculum-based educational scholarship programs.

Smile Train leverages strategic and innovative partnerships at the local and international level to anchor advocacy, the capacity of our partners and programs to strengthen surgical systems, and research infrastructure on global health priorities and policies.

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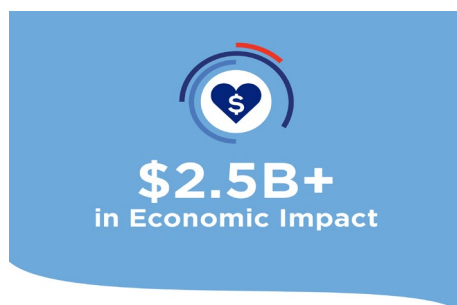
SMILE TRAIN ANNOUNCES CLEFT CARE BOOSTS AFRICA'S ECONOMIES BY \$2.5B USD, ACCORDING TO NEW REPORT

In honour of our 25th anniversary, we calculated how much our patients have given back to the world economy as a direct result of their cleft treatments. This report provides an empirical view of our systems-level impact, showcasing the remarkable return on investments in communities in Africa. The result is stunning: Smile Train has contributed more than \$69 billion to the global economy.

In Africa specifically, Smile Train has supported 149,249 primary cleft surgeries, resulting in 1,137,742 years lost to disability averted and more than \$2.5B in economic benefit.

These numbers are truly astonishing and underline the transformative power of our work. This achievement is a testament to the dedication of our incredible Smile Train team, medical partners, and supporters.

Dive into the report at smiletrain.org/25



3RD ALL AFRICA SAFETY AND QUALITY REVIEWERS WORKSHOP IN ABUJA SEEKS TO MONITOR SERVICE DELIVERY

Smile Train hosted the 3rd All-Africa Safety and Quality Reviewer's Workshop in Abuja, Nigeria from 20th-22nd May 2024. The workshop focused on strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation as a Veritable Tool for Enhancing the Safety and Quality of Cleft Surgery and Anaesthesia. It brought together 45 participants from 13 countries across Africa, comprising surgical and anaesthesia professionals with varied experience in cleft care.

At the end of the workshop, several recommendations were made, notably the need to closely follow up on any pilot projects and preliminary studies, a commitment to providing timely updates on ongoing projects supported by Smile Train. Additional recommendations included the involvement of Smile Train-accredited pediatric anaesthesiologists in pediatric anaesthesia fellowship training, as well as seeking additional sponsorship for the annual safety and quality workshop audit to enhance safety practices. The last recommendation was to establish a more structured secretariat for the Africa Safety Reviewers Workshop.

The event also celebrated Smile Train's 25th Anniversary in a colourful African-themed dinner. The next Workshop will be hosted in Rwanda in 2025.



SMILE TRAIN HONOURED AT THE 2024 NHEA AWARDS IN NIGERIA!

Smile Train was feted by the Nigerian Healthcare Excellence Award (NHEA) in the Special Recognition Award category for free Installation of solar-inclusive Inverters and Batteries in Hospitals across Nigeria.

Smile Train recognizes that every person deserves to receive high-quality, safe surgery and anaesthesia, with priority placed on children. It is on this premise that in partnership with Scottish Charity Kids Operating Room, we are investing in solar-powered surgical systems.

As Smile Train commemorates its 25th Anniversary, this year, we are proud of the transformative impact of our cleft care programs in Nigeria, which have brought an economic impact of \$990 million+ USD since our programs began in 2007.

Dubbed the Oscars of Healthcare Awards in Nigeria, Nigerian Healthcare Excellence Award (NHEA) is an annual event aimed at recognizing and celebrating the achievements of personalities and organizations who have contributed immensely to the growth and development of the Nigerian healthcare sector. Smile Train has received this award for four years in a row.

MRS NK OBI FETED EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN ADVANCING HEALTHCARE AWARDS AFRICA (#EWAH2024)

Congratulations to Smile Train Vice-President and Regional Director for Africa Mrs. Nkeiruka Obi for being recognized at the #EWAH2024 Awards! Mrs. Obi was recognized for her Innovative Interventions which have helped to advance the Cause and Health of Nigerians and Africans at large through her distinguished qualities of Diversity, Inclusiveness, Innovation; and her 'Miles-to-go' Mindset. In particular, Mrs. Obi stood out for her unique ability to provide Quality Equity and Access for the larger good of All persons needing cleft palate surgeries and patients across the social strata and health system.



HEALTHIER TOGETHER: A PATH TO A BETTER WORLD!

Smile Train participated in "Healthier Together: A Path to a Better World", a film produced for Smile Train and Kids Operating Room by BBC Story Works Commercial Productions in consultation with the WHO Foundation.

This video features Dr. Amos Zacharia Muzuka, a Smile Train partner anaesthesiologist in Mbeya, Tanzania, as he shares his experience with a common and life-threatening challenge too often faced by surgical teams and patients in limited-resource settings: power outages.

Together with our local medical partners, Smile Train and Kids Operating Room have worked to find and implement a solution, harnessing solar energy to provide a steady source of power for operating rooms while reducing environmental impact and saving lives.

SMILE TRAIN MARKS 50,000 MILESTONE IN CLEFT CARE IN NIGERIA.

The 5th NACLP Scientific Conference themed 'Standardizing Cleft Care to Improve the Quality Of Life In Individuals With Cleft Lip And Palate' took place from 10th- 12th July 2024. The conference which attracts cleft care professionals across Nigeria and beyond aims to strengthen the local medical capacity in providing 100% free safe and timely care to those who need it most.

The conference will also celebrate Smile Train's 50,000 milestone interventions in comprehensive cleft care in Nigeria since programs began in the country in 2007.





25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND PARTNER RECOGNITION MADAGASCAR

On June 21st and 22nd, Smile Train commemorated its 25th anniversary in Antsirabe, Madagascar. The event was a heartwarming tribute to the organization's impactful journey.

During the celebration, the Sante Plus treatment center in Antsirabe received well-deserved recognition. Dr. Benjamina Rakotoson, Director of Sante Plus Antsirabe, received an award recognizing their fruitful partnership with Smile Train over the past four years.

Mrs Nkeiruka Obi, Smile Train's VP and Regional Director for Africa, extended heartfelt congratulations to Sante Plus for their unwavering commitment to providing free, safe, and quality cleft care in Madagascar and was hopeful the partnership with Sante Plus and other partners will grow stronger.

In addition to the awards, the celebration was filled with fun activities, cake-cutting, and shared joy among partners, beneficiaries, and well-wishers.

Also present were Dr. Rantonirina, an ENT surgeon, and Dr. Andry Randriamalala, another Smile Train partner.



TEAM CLEFT WORKSHOP IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA.

Smile Train hosted a highly engaging Team Cleft Workshop in Addis Ababa from April 17 to 18, 2024. With the participation of 22 individuals from five Ethiopian partner hospitals, the workshop was a great success!

Six participants obtained a Train the Trainer certification, highlighting their dedication and commitment to learning. The training provided extensive and hands-on experience, ensuring participants gained valuable knowledge and skills.

Team Cleft is a Smile Train - Lifebox workshop which focuses on multidisciplinary teamwork and communication in the OR, specifically for cleft surgery.

Smile Train is proud of its partners in Ethiopia and grateful for their active involvement in transforming smiles and changing the lives of over 38000 children and persons born with clefts.

Together, we are making a difference!





TRAINING SESSION ON PEDIATRIC ANAESTHESIA FOR CLEFT IN ETHIOPIA

Smile Train in partnership with the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) held the first Pediatric Anaesthesia for Cleft training session in Ethiopia.

Twenty-two participants, all of whom had completed the SAFE Peads Training in the last 3 years, took part in the session. The group included nurses, anaesthetists, and physicians from various partner organizations. The program's main objective was to give attendees the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver safe and effective anaesthesia to children with clefts.

The training team comprised seven experienced trainers, all of whom had undergone training and certification through the SAFE Peads program.



IT EQUIPMENT DONATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, KENYA.

Smile Train has supported University of Nairobi Department of Surgery with IT equipment to augment digital learning and enhance the department's infrastructure.

"As part of strengthening local capacity, we are handing over the equipment comprising cameras, laptops, and printers to enhance the faculty and students' efficiency with data collection and record keeping. Smile Train has been supporting the Department of Surgery through scholarships and training to bring more qualified cleft surgeons closer to the doorsteps of the patients who need them most," said Patrick Mwai Smile Train Education and Training Manager- Africa

On his part, the Dean of Students Department of Health Sciences Prof. George Osanjo acknowledged the progressive support by Smile Train in surgical capacity building at the institution.

"Smile Train's investment in the residents ensures that we can churn highly skilled surgeons into local communities. With their support we are positively impacting the future of surgeons in and outside Kenya," said Prof. Osanjo.

In a bid to bridge the gap and strengthen surgical systems in Africa, Smile Train, through the University of Nairobi Department of Surgery established a scholarship program in 2021 that currently supports 12 resident doctors pursuing plastic and reconstructive surgery.



BASIC LIFE SUPPORT AND PAEDIATRIC ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING IN SINGIDA, TANZANIA.

Smile Train proudly organized a highly valuable training program on Basic Life Support (BLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) at St. Gasper Hospital in Singida.

The training was dispensed to twelve dedicated individuals from various hospital departments, including ICU, theatre, recovery, surgical ward, paediatrics, and surgery, who actively participated in this training opportunity.

As an accredited international training site affiliated with the certified American Heart Association Training Center for BLS and PALS, Smile Train ensures the highest quality of training.

The four-day, instructor-led courses emphasized essential CPR skills and enhanced team dynamics during emergencies.

Smile Train extends heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Rebecca, Dr. Bob, and all participants for their commitment to improving cleft care by expanding their medical knowledge and strengthening their lifesaving capabilities.



SMILE TRAIN ORGANISES SPEECH TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR CLEFT PATIENTS IN DRC.

Children born with clefts may encounter difficulties with speech. Even after surgery, they may require specialized speech therapy.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Smile Train is currently running 4 speech programs, with 3 located at surgical treatment centres and 1 at an independent partner.

Speech programs are organized for cleft-affected patients, to provide intensive speech therapy. The program also features engaging activities that enhance the learning experience, offering a supportive environment that children might not easily find.

Louange Luseko Kahindo, a nurse at Smile Train partner hospital TC: CBCA Bethesda, led therapy sessions for 9 patients during a program held in Goma from the 3rd to the 5th of April 2024.

In addition to life-changing surgery, Smile Train local medical partners often provide other essential cleft care, such as feeding and nutrition counselling, speech therapy, dental care, and orthodontic treatment, to ensure that patients can lead full and productive lives.



NUTRITION TRAINING IN FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICA

Fifteen dedicated participants from Benin, Ivory Coast, Sénégal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, and Guinea Conakry gathered from the 27th - 31st May 2024 in Benin to enhance their skills and knowledge in nutrition. The workshop, facilitated by Smile Train Nutrition Advisor Dr. Barbara Delage, focused on several critical areas:

Prioritizing Breastfeeding: Participants learned about the importance of breastfeeding for children with cleft conditions. Proper breastfeeding practices are essential for their healthy development.

Monitoring and Promoting Growth: The workshop emphasized monitoring children's growth and promoting healthy weight gain. This approach ensures a bright and healthy future for those born with clefts.

These professionals, representing Smile Train partner hospitals in francophone Africa, are empowered to provide essential nutritional support to children with cleft conditions. Their dedication will make a significant impact on the well-being of these children.





SMILE TRAIN AFRICA MEDICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (AMAC) MEETING HELD IN KIGALI - RWANDA.

Smile Train held a three-day AMAC retreat on July 4th - 6th, 2024, in Kigali, Rwanda bringing together the best and brightest cleft experts in Africa who support partners in advancing safe, quality & comprehensive cleft care in Africa. The retreat featured a high-impact leadership training session conducted by the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) tailored specifically for surgical healthcare teams, focusing on accelerating leadership excellence within the global surgery domain.

Thank you to Prof. Peter Donkor, Dr Alhassan Datti Mohammed, Dr Asrat Mengiste, Dr Rose Alenyo, Rona Breese, Prof Oluranti O. DaCosta, Dr Fredfly Bulamba, Dr Gyikua Plange Rhule, Dr Benjamina Rakotoson, Mrs Miriam Nabie, Prof. Adeola Olusanya, Dr Zipporah Gathuya Mr Edouardo Adjassin and Prof. Mouafo Tambo Faustin for a job well done.

JULY IS CLEFT AWARENESS MONTH

July is Cleft Awareness Month which seeks to create more awareness, shun stigma and dispel myths and misinformation surrounding the condition. No child should live with the stigma of an untreated cleft. Help us find them at africa@smiletrain.org.



Myths Vs Facts about clefts

Myth: Parents (especially mothers) cause clefts.

Fact: A cleft is never anyone's fault and often requires a lifetime of comprehensive treatment.



EMPOWERING LOCAL MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING.



KidsOR

SAFE SURGERY FOR EVERY CHILD

Smile Train/Kids Operating Room Scholarship for Pediatric Surgery Fellowship 2021-2026

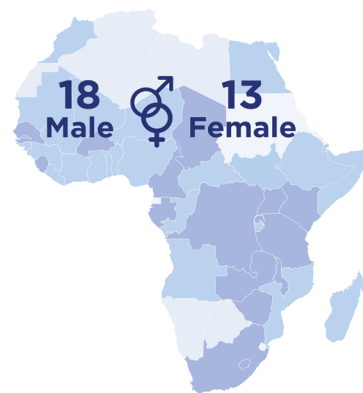
45 surgeons to be trained in 5 years. Candidates will be selected from 22 countries across Africa. The Scholarship would extend to post-fellowship sub-specialization in Cleft Surgery

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



Priority will be given to more females and underserved countries for the next cohort of scholars.

For inquiries contact scholarships@kidsor.org; scholarships@smiletrain.org



RATIO OF MALE TO FEMALE (2024)

The Smile Train-KidsOR collaboration has also partnered with the West African College of Surgeons (WACS) and the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), to offer a pediatric surgery scholarship for the training and education of 45 paediatric surgeons across Africa.

As we celebrate 25 years of impact, we reflect on Smile Train's unique, sustainable model; empowering medical practitioners with training, funding, and resources so they can provide children with free comprehensive cleft care.

In Africa, we have awarded more than \$ 5.7 million in education and training grants to medical professionals in collaboration with our strategic partners. Smile Train is building and elevating cleft – and all surgical care – programs across Africa by investing in one of our continent's most valuable resources: its homegrown surgeons.

SMILE TRAIN PROUD SPONSOR OF THE PAN AFRICAN CLEFT LIP AND PALATE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE.

The Pan African Cleft Lip and Palate Association (PAACLIP) conference will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe on November 18-20, 2024, under the theme: Cleft Care in Africa: Reorganization and Repositioning for Excellence. Smile Train will be supporting approximately 200 delegates at this conference. PAACLIP is an association whose sole aim is to promote education, training and treatment of cleft lip and palate in Africa. PAACLIP membership includes paediatricians, nurses, speech therapists, volunteers, managers, surgeons, orthodontists, nutritionists, dentists, psychologists, social workers, mobilizers etc.



Save the Date

6TH PAN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF CLEFT LIP AND PALATE (PAACLIP) CONGRESS

Cleft Care in Africa: Reorganization and Repositioning for Excellence.

18TH TO 21ST NOVEMBER 2024 ZIMBABWE

Proudly supported by



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Transforming Lives & Global Cleft Care For 25 Years

