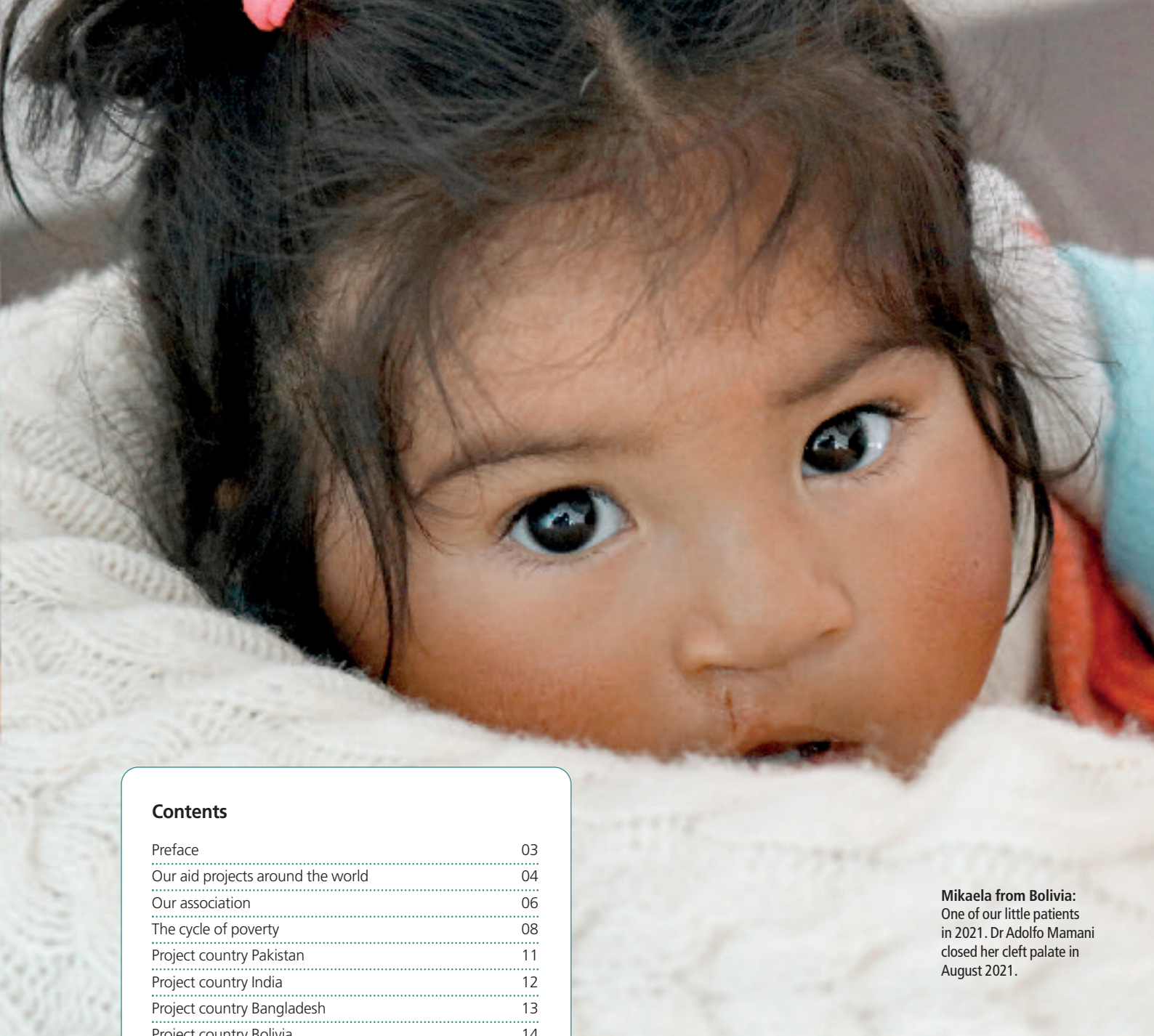




# Worldwide aid for cleft children

Annual report 2021



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Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe e.V., as a nonprofit association with the purpose of promoting charitable causes and public health, is exempt from corporation tax under § 5 (1) No. 9 of the Corporation Tax Act (Körperschaftsteuergesetz) and exempt from trade tax under § 3 No. 6 of the Trade Tax Act (Gewerbesteuer-gesetz), according to the latest exemption notice from the tax office Freiburg-City, tax number 06469/47127 of November 18, 2019 for the last assessment period 2016 - 2018. Our statutory purpose is the promotion of public health and healthcare. We affirm that our funds are used solely to advance charitable causes and promote public health abroad.

**Mikaela from Bolivia:**  
One of our little patients  
in 2021. Dr Adolfo Mamani  
closed her cleft palate in  
August 2021.

## Imprint

Publisher:  
**Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe e.V.**

Responsible:  
**Andrea Weiberg**

Editing & Text:  
**Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe e.V.**

Cover image:  
**Nabila from Bangladesh**

Image credit:  
**Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe e.V.,**

Layout & production:  
**MSG|media – Sebastian Schampera**

## *Dear donors and friends of Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe,*

*For us, the year 2021 was a year of progress, expansion and development. In 2020, the global coronavirus pandemic had a dramatic impact on our ability to help cleft children. This was reflected in a decline in the number of operations we were able to provide. Now we are happy to have come out of 2021 with a record result: we were able to make 6,878 surgeries possible! This made 2021 the most successful year in our association's history to date. And we have again made great progress beyond just the raw number of surgeries: In Latin America, we started new project partnerships, and we were able to expand and further develop existing projects. In Somalia, the construction of a hospital as a new contact point for needy cleft patients was completed. In Pakistan, we made further progress in establishing an interdisciplinary cleft center, where our team will offer patients comprehensive cleft care therapies beyond the basic surgeries in the form of ENT medicine, orthodontics and speech therapy, as well as psychosocial support.*

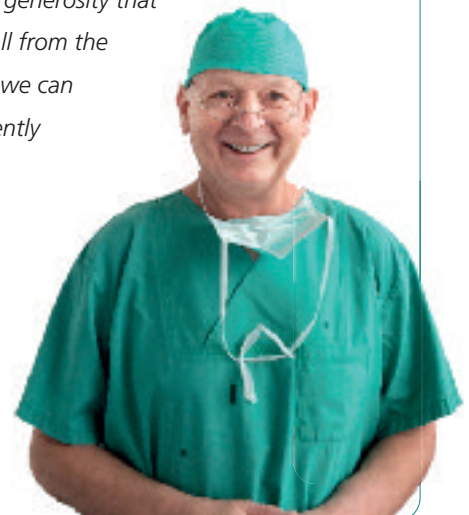
*I would not have dared hope for any of this at the beginning of 2021, when it became clear that the pandemic would continue to be with us for the foreseeable future. My thanks go to our many committed project partners around the world. They have all worked hard to continue and advance our help for our cleft children. Thanks to our local teams we were able to respond quickly and flexibly to temporary operation stoppages, travel restrictions and other challenges. In our project countries, we continue to be a dependable source of help for our many patients. Despite all remaining problems, we are thus gradually reducing the surgery backlogs created by the pandemic, and were able to help thousands of cleft children and their families in 2021.*

*Once again, I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of goodwill and generosity that you all have again shown us in 2021, and continue to show. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your support and your faith in us. Thank you that we can count on you and for standing by the many cleft children who are so urgently in need of our help.*

Your



Prof. Dr. med. Frank Feyerherd, Board of Directors



# AID FOR CLEFT CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

Our teams provided 6,878 operations in 2021 - almost 600 more than in 2019! After the number of operations we were able to offer had declined in 2020 due to the global coronavirus pandemic, our ability to help has now returned to the "pre-Corona" level. In addition to our existing aid projects, we added a fourth project site in Bolivia, launched a new project in Nicaragua, and completed the construction of a hospital in Somalia as a permanent contact point for Somali cleft patients. In Costa Rica, we supported speech therapy measures as well as other supporting cleft therapies as part of a small project.

## Surgeries per year, 2017 – 2021

2017	4,289
2018	5,088
2019	6,280
2020	4,634
2021	6,878

## Surgeries by country, total

India	34,815
Bangladesh	8,663
Pakistan	5,104
Peru	4,753
Vietnam	3,875
Bolivia	3,077
Afghanistan	1,506
Cameroon	1,292
Philippines	679
Indonesia	215
Tajikistan	212
Rwanda	149
Tanzania	92
Burundi	85
Uganda	74
Nicaragua	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64,593</b>

2 OPs  
in 2021



NEW: NICARAGUA

67 OPs  
in 2021



PERU

BOLIVIA

616 OPs  
in 2021



# UND THE WORLD – SINCE 2002





## FROM FREIBURG: WORLDWIDE AID FOR CLEFT CHILDREN

Every child has a right to a life in health and dignity. Since 2002, when our association was founded, we have been pursuing our mission: ensuring that children with cleft malformation from families in need around the world have access to safe and qualified treatment - and thus the chance to live a life in health and community.

### Our statutory purpose

Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe is committed to helping patients, mainly children, with cleft lip and palate from developing countries. We fund the surgeries and other necessary treatments and promote the social integration of those affected. We work together with local doctors in order to enable the establishment of independent medical structures in the countries and thus provide sustainable development aid.



Chairman of the Board **Alexander Gross** and Managing Director **Andrea Weiberg**



## New management

Since 2002, Alexander Gross (62), a founding member of Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe e.V. (DCKH), has successfully managed the association's fortunes. Andrea Weiberg (55) has been part of the Freiburg-based DCKH team since 2018. The business economist has been responsible for our fund-raising and PR. In August 2021, her responsibilities expanded: on July 31, she was appointed by the DCKH General Assembly to the post of Managing Director and has since formed the operational board of DCKH in tandem with Alexander Gross as Chairman of the Board. These two full-time board members are supported in an honorary capacity by Prof. Dr. Frank Feyerherd (anesthesiologist) and Thomas Schneider (entrepreneur). This well-rehearsed team combines many years of experience in a wide variety of fields and is ideally positioned to meet all challenges of the coming years.

## ORGANIZATION

The following is the structure of the association effective since the association's annual General Assembly of 31.07.2021.

**Board of Directors:** Alexander Gross (Chair, salaried), Andrea Weiberg (salaried), Prof. Dr. med. Frank Feyerherd (unsalaried), Thomas Schneider (unsalaried)

**General Assembly:** The General Assembly has a supervisory function. This includes the election and dismissal of the members of the Board of Directors, approval of the budget prepared by the Board of Directors and the formal annual discharge of the Board.

**Managing director:** Andrea Weiberg (salaried)

**Auditors (unsalaried):** Ute Henninger-Sehling, Dr. Christian Rüschi. *Main function: Supervision of the Board of Directors regarding finances and asset management*

**Board of Trustees (unsalaried):** Prof. Dr. Dr. Jürgen Dieckmann, Prof. Dr. Dr. Götz Ehmann, Dr. Ulrike Lamlé, Dr. Dr. Oliver Blume, Gunther Au-Balbach, Dr. Jos van den Hoek. *Function: advisory committee of experts from the fields of oral and maxillofacial surgery, ENT surgery and orthodontics*

**Mitarbeiter (salaried):** nine employees in Freiburg (three of them full-time), one employee each in India and Bangladesh

**Members of the association: 8**

**Project directors DCKH:** *India:* Dr. Dushyant Prasad; *Vietnam:* PD Dr. Dr. Denys Loeffelbein, PD Dr. Daniel Lonic; *Afghanistan/Pakistan/Somalia:* Dr. Ulrike Lamlé; *Bangladesh:* Safowan Bakee, Dr. Dushyant Prasad; *Rwanda/Tanzania:* Gunther Au-Balbach, Dr. Dr. Oliver Blume; *Peru:* Sylvia Luedtke-Haas, *Bolivia/ Nicaragua:* Stefanie Huter; *Costa Rica:* Dr. Martin Andreas

**Partner associations D-A-CH:**

Schweizer Hilfe für Spaltkinder, *Therwil (Canton Basel-Landschaft), [www.spaltkinder.ch](http://www.spaltkinder.ch)*; Austrian Cleft Kinderhilfe, *Dornbirn (Vorarlberg), [www.spaltkinder.at](http://www.spaltkinder.at)*

# THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

In our project countries, being born with a cleft lip and palate means a painful life with sometimes great deprivations and lost opportunities for many children. Most of our young patients come from the poorest families. Their parents often know nothing about the causes of cleft and the available treatment options. And even if they did they could not afford the treatment. The operation to close the cleft is the first and central step in the treatment. Without surgery, the children have little chance of leading a "normal" life. Living a healthy life, making friends and having an education may be out of reach for them.



Hussain from India, born with bilateral cleft lip and palate – before his surgery and afterwards.



### A life in community

A cleft lip is highly visible. Depending on the cleft's size and shape, the children are disfigured more or less. Because of their visible "otherness" they are ridiculed, shunned, and ostracized. But a cleft lip and palate is much more than „just“ an aesthetic issue. Depending on the type and extent of the cleft, there also are functional impairments. Forming certain sounds used in speaking can be difficult or impossible, making them difficult to understand. This and an often nasal voice are typical features that additionally stigmatize the children. A life of isolation is often the sad consequence.



### Longing to go to school

For children, school means community and friendship. School gives them structure and stability. It also gives them the tools to build their future. But unfortunately, going to school is not a matter of course for millions of children worldwide. There are many reasons for this sad situation. But children with cleft lip and palate have it particularly hard, and many are not granted their wish of going to school with the other children. Cleft surgery is an essential prerequisite for children with cleft lip and palate to find recognition as part of a school community.



### Normal development

A cleft lip and palate is often accompanied by serious health impairments. Breastfeeding, which is usually the only way for mothers in our project countries to feed their babies, is made more difficult by the cleft. Without help and breastfeeding aids, it can be impossible. Babies with clefts are therefore often malnourished or undernourished. This makes them susceptible to infections. In addition, they face an increased risk of developing abscesses in the mouth. Their ears are also vulnerable. Many cleft children suffer from chronic middle ear infections, which without appropriate treatment can result in hearing deficits and thus have a negative impact on speech development.



## > OUR PROJECTS

Alongside India and Bangladesh, Pakistan has become one of our most important project countries, with 1,003 operations provided to patients in 2021.

### TREATMENT SPECTRUM AND IMPACT MONITORING

What treatments we are able to offer in our project countries varies. There are locations where our ability to help is limited to only offering the basic surgeries. In other countries we can offer some additional therapies, or even a full comprehensive cleft treatment with all relevant followup therapies from several medical disciplines.

- ★ = Basic surgeries
- ★★ = surgeries and some followup therapies
- ★★★ = surgeries and comprehensive followup therapy available

Each treatment is documented in our patient database. No treatment is reimbursed without verification of this documentation. We monitor the impact of our project activities through regular video conferences with our project partners. Individual projects are supervised by German volunteer doctors. They support our local partners with their expertise from relevant medical specializations. As a rule, they visit their project country once a year.

## PAKISTAN

# RECORD NUMBER OF SURGERIES PROVIDED

Covid severely disrupted our work in Pakistan in 2020. In 2021, the situation is much improved. Our team under its project leader and head surgeon Prof. Ganatra has adapted to the changed conditions, and procedures have become established. In addition, there were hardly any travel restrictions anymore, which made it possible to increase the number of aid missions outside the project base site in Karachi, the capital of Sindh province.

In rural areas, there is a shortage of trained medical specialists, and travelling to the city means costs and a loss of income that many families can't afford. That's why we're glad to be able to reach so many people who otherwise would not have access to qualified treatment with aid missions to outlying hospitals. During the aid mission in Hub in July 2021, 21 patients underwent surgery. Among them were the siblings Razia (5), Umair (3) and Jawaid (7). Their father Abdul was himself born with a cleft. His first two children were born without a cleft. Then Jawaid was born. The family was shocked: A large bilateral cleft disfigured the boy's face. Abdul blamed himself. A fourth healthy child followed. But the relief over this did not last: Razia and Umair, the youngest of the six children, also were born with a cleft lip and palate. Both received surgery by Prof. Ganatra on July 9 during the relief mission in Hub. Poor Jawaid's cleft however was too large; the surgery too complex. Prof. Ganatra instead operated his cleft three weeks later, shortly after his seventh birthday, directly at our partner hospital in Karachi. Jawaid also has a cleft palate, and the operation for that is still pending. This family's fate that is not uncommon in Pakistan. Multiple cleft cases in a single family are often the result of intra-family marriages, which are still widespread in Pakistan.

Overall, 2021 was a very successful year for us in Pakistan. First and importantly, we were able to provide more than 1,000 operations. But our success in Pakistan goes beyond that: The development of the cleft center in Karachi, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is also progressing. Within a year, extensive interdisciplinary treatment and care services have



Project start: 2013

Project partner: Al-Mustafa Welfare Society

Project leader: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Ganatra

Treatment spectrum: ★★ ★

Surgeries total, all years: 5,104

Surgeries 2021: **1,003**

Additional measures 2021: **Founding of an interdisciplinary cleft center**

Total funding 2021: **373,987 euros**

been established: Prof. Ganatra's team now includes an ENT doctor, an orthodontist, a speech therapist and a psychologist. A female and a male social worker serve as important contacts for the cleft families. The goal of our comprehensive concept is the full integration of the cleft children into their villages, schools and communities.

**A family's story:** Like their father, the siblings Umair (3), Razia (5) and Jawaid (7) were born with cleft lip and / or palate.



## INDIA

## RECORD YEAR WITH MORE THAN 3,000 SURGERIES

In 2021, our Indian teams performed 3,271 operations. This meant an increase of some 1,500 operations compared to the previous year, and even almost 500 more than in 2019, before the outbreak of the pandemic.

A record result that we would not have expected as recently as May 2021. At that time, the novel Coronavirus was raging across the country. In the many rural regions, the situation was particularly dramatic. There was a shortage of hospital beds and oxygen. A nationwide lockdown with local suspensions of surgeries was the result. However, after a two-month break, our Indian teams were able to restart operations again. In terms of our local organization we enacted some changes. While we had more than 30 sites in 2020, we reduced the number of our Indian projects to 26 in 2021. Against the backdrop of the rising operation numbers and an expansion of our efforts in the country, this consolidation ensures greater efficiency and guarantees a very high quality of the medical care our patients receive.



Project start: 2003 | Locations: 26

Project partner: ABMSS, Bengaluru

Treatment spectrum:

- ★ ★ ★ (4 centers);
- ★ ★ (20 centers);
- ★ (2 centers)

Surgeries total, all years: 34,815

Surgeries 2021: 3,271

Total funding 2021: 944,221 euros



Rejaul received surgery in Raiganj. After a successful surgery, the joy is palpable on his mother's face.

**BANGLADESH****CONTINUOUS EXPANSION  
OF OUR AID**

With 1,467 operations, Bangladesh is second only to India in the final tally of surgeries in 2021. Our teams regularly embark on surgical missions throughout Bangladesh. In this way, they can bring help to the many patients in rural regions. Families shy away from travelling the long distances to the major cities and are hesitant about entrusting their children to the doctors there.

Our partner from the very beginning of our work in Bangladesh: Dr. Mohammad Quamruzzaman. We have been working with Dr. Zaman, as he is widely known, since 2009. He is one of the most experienced and qualified cleft surgeons in Bangladesh. Like no other, he is able to win the trust of his young patients and their parents. In addition, Dr. Zaman helps the cause of treating the cleft patients of Bangladesh as a trainer. To further expand our ability to help in Bangladesh, we have been training a young female surgeon, Dr. Shantona Rana, and a young male surgeon, Dr. Masfiqur Rahman, since late 2020. Dr. Zaman participates in their training.



Project start: 2010

Project partner: Syed Nuruddin Ahmed  
Development Foundation (SNAD Foundation)

Cooperation partner:

Operation Cleft Australia (OCA)

Treatment spectrum: ★

Surgeries total, all years: 8,663

Surgeries 2021: **1,467**

Total funding 2021: **359,578 euros**



**Dr. Zaman: with many years of experience and a big heart in the service of cleft children.** In the case of Muslima, he closed the palate before the lip. He sometimes uses this "trick" to ensure that parents bring their child back for the second operation.

## BOLIVIA

### MAIN PROVIDER FOR CLEFT CHILDREN

In Bolivia, there are only few surgeons who treat clefts. Our presence in the country has now expanded to four project teams, making us the biggest provider of care for affected children and their families in Bolivia, the poorest country in South America.

Our effort to help cleft children in Bolivia started in 2010 with the plastic surgeon Dr. Mario Villalba from Tarija. Since then, it has progressed well. In 2015, we were able to win pediatric surgeon Dr. Adolfo Mamani as a new partner. Dr. Mamani has built up an interdisciplinary team and offers his patients comprehensive therapy. With his team, he regularly carries out aid missions outside his hometown of La Paz, in regions where otherwise there would be no help for cleft children. Many of the families he treats have indigenous roots. They are disadvantaged and live in extreme poverty. Dr. Mamani trained Dr. Gonzalo Torres, who has now started his own cleft project in La Paz. Our fourth project partner is the organization Ayninakuna from Cochabamba, whose efforts to provide care to cleft children we have been supporting since May 2020. Ayninakuna also follows an interdisciplinary approach.



Project start: 2010

Project partner: 1) Cleft Bolivia Amar y Sanar, Tarija

Project leader: Dr. Mario Villalba

2) Jiwaqui Bolivia, La Paz. Project leader: Dr. Adolfo Mamani

3) Ayninakuna, Cochabamba

4) Dr. Gonzalo Torres, La Paz

Project leader: Dr. Eligio Rolanda Acienega Llano

Treatment spectrum: ✨ ✨

Surgeries total, all years: 3,077

Surgeries 2021: 616

Total funding 2021: 263,133 euros



Deysi is one of our little patients. Her parents brought her to receive treatment during Dr. Mamani's cleft mission in Potosi.

## PERU

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS,  
UNCLEAR OUTLOOK

Many coronavirus infections and an unclear situation caused by the presidential elections in the summer of 2021 have hampered our help for cleft children for the second year in a row.

In 2019, we provided 235 operations in Peru; in 2020, the figure was only 104. Unfortunately, this was not the end of the downward trend. The focus of our aid was always on providing surgeries in remote regions in the highlands and lowlands of Peru. In 2021, this was barely possible anymore. The provincial hospitals did not allow any cleft operations because of the many Covid cases they had to deal with. As a result, the number of operations declined further, while costs increased. In Peru, our cost per operation in 2021 was 500 US dollars. The urgently needed reform of the Peruvian healthcare system continues to be a long time coming after the presidential election in the summer of 2021. We continue to hope for better times in Peru.



Project start: 2006

Project partner:

1) Qorito, Lima/Project leader: Dr. Alberto Bardales

2) Cusco/Project leader: Dr. Mario Cornejo

Treatment spectrum: ☆ ☆ ☆

Surgeries total, all years: 4,753

Surgeries 2021: 67

Total funding 2021: 53,808 euros



**Team Qorito, led by Dr. Alberto Bardales** (pictured left), during a mission to Ayaviri in May 2021: Corona-tested and always in a good mood.

## VIETNAM

UPWARDS TREND;  
CONTRACT EXTENDED

For a long time, Vietnam was one of the few countries in the world that had the pandemic under control. But in the summer of 2021, the number of infections skyrocketed, leading to a strict lockdown nationwide. This affected both our partner organization OSCA in Hanoi and our two clinic partnerships in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, which we support in a joint project with the Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation (NCF) from Taiwan.

Despite the difficult situation, we were able to provide 366 operations in Vietnam. We are particularly pleased with the unexpected increase in the number of operations in our newest Vietnamese aid project at the Vietnam National Children's Hospital in Hanoi. The operations performed there and in Ho Chi Minh City are funded half by us and half by the NCF. In addition to the surgeries, we also support further treatments such as ENT, speech therapy and NAM as a preoperative measure. The contract with the National Children's Hospital was extended for a further year in 2021, and we plan to double the number of operations.



Project start: 2006

Project partner:

- 1) Center for Researching and Aiding Smile Operation (OSCA), Hanoi /Project leader: Dr. Ai;
  - 2) Odonto-Maxillo-Facial Hospital, Ho-Chi-Minh-City;
  - 3) Vietnam National Children's Hospital, Hanoi
- Cooperation partner (2/3): Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation Taiwan (NCF)

Treatment spectrum: ★★ ★

Surgeries total, all years: 3,875

Surgeries 2021: 366

Total funding 2021: 122,643 Euro



**Maly was lucky:** she was not yet a year old when her parents learned about the free cleft surgeries provided by our partner organization OSCA. The experienced surgeon Dr. Ai closed Maly's cleft lip.



**SOMALIA / RWANDA****HOSPITAL COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY**

In cooperation with Somalia Medical Care e.V. (Somcare, Heidelberg), we were able to complete the hospital construction we supported in Garowe, the capital of Puntland, on schedule in late 2021. This lays the foundation for our new project in East Africa.

The "Somcare Hospital & DCKH Cleft Center" will act as a point of contact for cleft children from the entire Somali-speaking region. This also includes parts of Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya. Most Somalis make their living with nomadic livestock farming. The region is very poor and as a result health care is also poor. Our thanks go to Kris and Tom Schneider for their financial support of the hospital construction and to the Eva Mayr-Stihl Stiftung for their substantial grant to purchase medical equipment. The annual Rwanda mission of our volunteer project leaders Dr. Oliver Blume and Gunther Au-Balbach could not take place in 2021 due to Corona. We are all the more pleased about the six operations that our Rwandan surgeon Dr. Laurent Siborurema was able to perform independently despite the difficult situation in the country. Especially in Africa, every child we can help counts.



Project start:

2011 Rwanda / 2016 Tanzania / 2020 Somalia

Project partners: 1) Rwamagana Provincial Hospital (Rwanda) / Project leader: Dr. Laurent Siborurema

2) Rulenge-Ngara Diocese (Tanzania),

3) Coop. partner Somalia: Somalia Medical Care e.V.

Treatment spectrum: ✨

Surgeries total, all years: 241 (Rwanda / Tanzania)

Surgeries 2021 (Rwanda): 6; Additional measures 2021:

Development of the new project location in Somalia

Total funding Somalia 2021: **284,655 euros**

Total funding Rwanda 2021: **16,866 euros**



**Starting in 2022 - contact point for Somali cleft patients: the Somcare Hospital & DCKH Cleft Center**

## AFGHANISTAN

### PROJECT HALTED BY TALIBAN TAKEOVER

We have been active in Afghanistan since 2010. Now, as a result of the Taliban coming to power, our three surgical teams have had to suspend their activities for the time being. Operations have not been possible since the regime change in the summer of 2021.

We are grateful for the 80 operations that were provided to patients in 2021 before the takeover, and for the total of more than 1,500 operations provided to cleft patients since the start of the project. As partners of a Western organization, our three male Afghan surgeons and our female surgeon with their families are potentially in danger from the Taliban. We are in touch with our teams and support them as far as it is possible for us in their desire to leave their home country. Provided that departure is possible, we have paved the way to neighboring Pakistan with a point of contact at our aid project in Karachi. Nevertheless, we do not give up hope that we will be able to help cleft children in Afghanistan again at some point in the future.



Project start: 2010

Project partner:

- 1) Dr. Sebghatullah Natory, Kunduz
- 2) Dr. Habibullah Atif, Faizabad
- 3) Dr. Nooria Zia & Dr. Wahed Ershad, Mazar-i-Scharif

Treatment spectrum: ★

Surgeries total, all years: 1,506

Surgeries 2021: 80

Total funding 2021: 30,679 euros

## NICARAGUA

### NEW PARTNER IN LATIN AMERICA

In Nicaragua, almost half of the six million inhabitants are considered to be living in poverty. Medical care is inadequate, and there is a lack of trained medical specialists. Cleft children are dependent on the support of aid organizations.

The German-Swiss organization Nicaplast carries out annual aid missions in Nicaragua in cooperation with local surgeons. Prof. Dr. Dr. Robert Sader, Director of the Clinic for Oral and Maxillofacial Plastic Surgery at Frankfurt University Hospital, heads the German Nicaplast group. The experienced surgeon Dr. Gustavo Herdócia is the local project leader. After a long-standing funding partner discontinued financial support at short notice, we spontaneously pledged our help. We hope to be able to continue our assistance despite the currently difficult political situation in the country.



Project start: November 2021

Projekt partner: Dr. Gustavo Herdócia

Cooperation partner: Nicaplast

Treatment spectrum: ★

Surgeries 2021: 2

## „Thank you!“ from the bottom of our hearts!

Our help for cleft children is only possible thanks to our many donors. Their willingness to help again remained unbroken in 2021. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters for their generosity. Some of them we would like to highlight in particular. Our thanks also go to those who are no longer with us and who have included us in their wills.

Thank you all for your faith in our work!

### Institutional donors

Our  
heartfelt  
thanks!



Lore-Keller-Stiftung



Sternstunden  
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BILD hilft e.V.  
„Ein Herz für Kinder“



Dr. Martin  
Andreas Stiftung



Chow Thai Fook  
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Operation Cleft  
Australia



Charlotte-  
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BMZ

### Corporate partners and private donors

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Plastimat GmbH</li> <li>&gt; MESTO Spritzenfabrik Ernst Stockburger GmbH</li> <li>&gt; Sunshine Smile GmbH</li> <li>&gt; Change Sportswear GmbH &amp; Co. KG</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; botiss dental GmbH/ botiss medical AG</li> <li>&gt; FAA Facharztagentur GmbH &amp; Co. KG</li> <li>&gt; Kris and Tom Schneider</li> <li>&gt; The Markus and Thomas Alber families</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Dr. Andreas Raab</li> <li>&gt; Dr. Barbara Zingg-Meyer<br/>and Dr. Claus Meyer</li> <li>&gt; Raimund Erasmus Ritschl</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|



**A SEAL OF CONFIDENCE:** Since 2012 (based on the 2010 annual financial statements) we have been proud bearers of the DZI donation seal for our responsible use of the funds donated to us. In order to maintain this status, we undergo strictly regulated audits of our finances every year. The seal is awarded by the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) based in Berlin. The DZI donation seal certifies that the certified organization makes responsible and diligent use of the donations entrusted to them.

# ON A MISSION



## Sternstunden Advent calendar

Sternstunden, the Munich-based Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation's charity campaign, has been supporting national and international children's aid projects since 1993. 24 of the projects supported are featured each year in the Sternstunden Advent calendar. In 2021, one calendar door was dedicated to our help for cleft children in India. We were able to win acting legend Senta Berger as „our“ project sponsor. The appeal for donations was filmed in the practice of our volunteer East Africa project manager and Board of Trustees member Dr. Dr. Oliver Blume in Munich. Another highlight was the big Sternstunden gala of Bavarian television, where our aid project was presented by pop icon Roland Kaiser.

## A heart for children in need

For a second time, the advertising agency from Kronberg has given us a pleasant surprise with its artistic interpretation of our work for children in need. We love this artwork in the herz annual calendar 2021 and say "thank you" from the bottom of our hearts for das herz's third annual donation in a row.



# FOR CLEFT CHILDREN

## REWE Group Star young talent competition

Every year, junior employees of the REWE Group get involved in projects promoting sustainability. The five best teams are awarded prizes. In the 2021 competition, three REWE trainees from Freiburg and the surrounding area decided to focus on helping cleft children: Stephanie Witte, Hanna Schulz and Theodor Litterzt made their customers aware of our work and raised donations. Even if they did not win one of the five group prizes their effort certainly was a big win for our cleft children!



## Social learning

As one of five aid organizations, we were invited to the Goethe Gymnasium secondary school in Emmendingen on July 7, 2021 to provide the ninth graders with a glimpse into the work of a non-profit organization. 21 students participated enthusiastically in the new „social learning“ unit and tried their hand at our cleft children memory. Finding the right before-and-after pairs proved to be a real challenge, generating a lively exchange and many interested questions.



## CATCHING UP AND MOVING AHEAD: OUR WORK IN 2021

In 2021, we successfully made up for the slump in our operations numbers the pandemic caused in 2020. Our teams provided 6,878 operations in nine countries. This amazing joint success was driven in particular by India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. India exceeded the 3,000 surgery mark for the first time. In Bangladesh, we were able to further expand our aid effort with new surgeons, resulting in almost 1,500 surgeries. Pakistan has also developed very positively in the six years since the start of the project, with 1,003 operations in 2021, as well as significant progress in the establishment of an interdisciplinary cleft center. In Latin America, we are pleased to report a stable upward trend in Bolivia with currently four sites and the start of a new aid project in Nicaragua. We extended the collaboration with the Vietnam National Children's Hospital in Hanoi, which started in 2020, for another year, with an increase in treatment numbers planned. In East Africa, a general calming of the Covid situation and the start of our new project in Somalia indicate a positive outlook for the future. All in all, we had a very successful year. Thanks to the efforts of our local teams, we were able to make a substantial contribution to reducing the global cleft surgery waiting lists created by the pandemic.

### Outlook

2022 is a very special year for us: Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe celebrates its 20th anniversary. Behind us lie 20 successful years, years in which we have achieved a great deal and learned a lot. We have succeeded in building a stable, worldwide network of aid with local teams. Today, we fund more than 6,000 operations per year. Beyond the surgeries, we are able at many locations to provide our patients with comprehensive care involving multiple relevant specialist medical disciplines. Local structures

and an interdisciplinary approach to therapy are essential criteria for aid that has a lasting impact. This is a philosophy that we have pursued from the outset and to which we will remain true in the future. It remains our primary goal to provide the highest possible standard of care in our project countries, taking into account local conditions. An expansion of our aid is only possible with the appropriate financial resources. With this in mind, we will increasingly promote the establishment of local fundraising structures.


### Advertising & public relations

Our donation income is the indispensable foundation of our help for cleft children. Many of our donors have been supporting our work for many years. We give them regular updates about our activities. Donors can choose what type and extent of communications they want to receive from us by contacting our team in Freiburg. In 2021, we sent out seven fundraising letters, six email newsletters and the 2020 annual report. Since 2020, we have also been increasingly using social media (Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn) to recruit new donors. Another important medium for attracting new donors is our TV commercial, which is shown pro bono on various stations of the RTL Media Group. Our fundraising activities are managed in-house, with conception and copywriting done mostly internally. In addition, we worked with the following external service providers in 2021: Design of fundraising letters and annual report > MSGmedia - Sebastian Schampera (Freiburg). Printing and dispatch control > Burger Druck GmbH (Waldkirch), Drescher Full-Service Versand GmbH (Offenburg), website support > The cookieLabs GmbH (Munich), online donation form > Altruja GmbH (Munich).

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021

We received donations of 3.596 million euros in 2021. Of this amount, 577k euros were bequests. Total expenses amounted to 2.953 million euros. Compared to the previous year, we increased our expenses for the fulfillment of our statutory purposes by 705k euros, to 2.466 million euros. Administrative expenses amounted to just under 98k euros in 2021, corresponding to 3.3% of total expenses (2020: 3.7%). At just under 408k euros, advertising and public relations spending increased only slightly in 2021 compared with 2020 and accounted for 13.8% of total expenses (2020: 18%). 643k euros were allocated to reserves.

The annual financial statements will be audited by an auditing firm and published in a detailed version of the annual report on our website in October 2022

A woman wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat, a light blue surgical mask, and a green cardigan over a light green top and a dark green pleated skirt. She is carrying a baby in a colorful, patterned sling. She is holding the hand of a young child who is wearing a teal vest with black polka dots and orange pants. They are standing in a hospital hallway with blue chairs and a tiled floor.

Many of the cleft children treated on the missions of our Bolivian surgeon Dr Mamani have indigenous roots.



**Deutsche  
CLEFT**  
**Kinderhilfe e.V.**  
Comprehensive care for children  
with cleft lip and palates

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The German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) has reviewed our use of funds. As a badge of the responsible use of the funds entrusted to us, Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe proudly bears the DZI donation seal.