




Worldwide aid for cleft children

Annual report 2020



Jheferson from Bolivia:
One of our little patients in 2020. He received his surgery in March, from our partner Dr. Adolfo Mamani.

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Dear friends and supporters,

2020 was a year that we will all remember as one of deep upheaval. This was of course no different for Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe. In the almost twenty years of our association's history, I have repeatedly experienced difficult times in individual project countries. I actively supported our aid for cleft children in Cameroon for many years and have accompanied many aid missions as an anesthetist. I know the realities of development aid, and I am familiar with the, often cultural, hurdles and challenges facing us in the host countries. But Corona presents a particularly profound challenge for us and our partners around the world. There are no simple measures to quickly resolve this crisis, no trove of hard-earned experience to fall back on.

When the world suddenly ground to a halt in the spring of last year, it was our primary worry that we would no longer be able to provide aid for our cleft children. That we were nevertheless able to conclude the year with 4,634 operations provided fills me with great joy and also a little pride, because ultimately this is the success of many years of intensive development work. The consistent adherence to our philosophy of investing in sustainable, local structures is paying off. In the years since Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe was founded in 2002, we have succeeded in building an international aid network - for children who would otherwise have little chance to live a normal life.

So I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners; the many doctors, therapists and project staff who are deeply committed to our little patients. And I would like to thank all of you who have supported us over the past year with your sympathy, encouragement and many donations, and who have again and again motivated and inspired us.

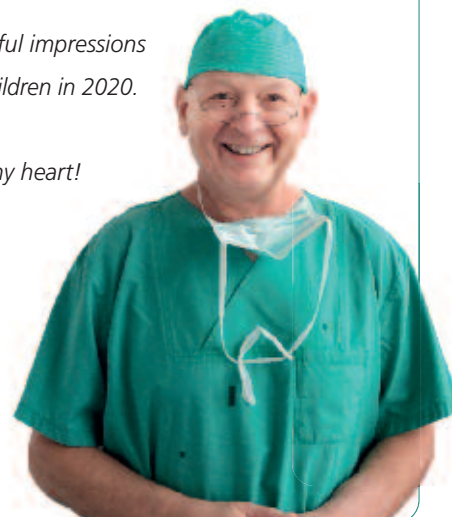
You can now look forward to an entertaining review of the year, with colorful impressions from our project countries and touching pictures and stories from our cleft children in 2020.

I hope you enjoy reading it and wish you all the best, from the bottom of my heart!

Your

Frank Feyerherd

Prof. Dr. med. Frank Feyerherd, DCKH board member



STATUTORY PURPOSE

Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe supports patients, mainly children, with cleft lip and palate from developing countries. We finance the operations and other necessary treatments and promote the social integration of those affected. We work with local doctors to provide sustainable, enduring development aid and enable the development of independent medical structures in the countries.

The association, based in Freiburg im Breisgau, was founded in 2002. In an extraordinary general meeting on June 19, 2020, new additional measures to fulfill the statutory purpose were defined in response to the ongoing pandemic emergency. This includes, among other things, supplying medications, disseminating information on protective rules of conduct, and running vaccination campaigns. The complete statutes are available for download on our website (www.spaltkinder.org).

ORGANIZATION

During the extraordinary general meeting, changes to the structure of the association were enacted.

1. Board of Directors: The board of directors consists of the chairman of the board of directors and an unsalaried board member as well as, as per the decision of the general assembly, a first and a vice managing director and another unsalaried board member. These constitute the board of directors. Directors under § 26 BGB (representative board, operational board) are: the chairman of the board and, if one was appointed via the procedure outlined above, the first managing director.

2. Governing board / Auditors: The governing board is replaced by two auditors.

The following shows the structure of the association in effect since the ordinary general assembly meeting of August 1, 2020.

Board of Directors: Alexander Gross (chairman, salaried), Prof. Dr. med. Frank Feyerherd (unsalaried), Thomas Schneider (unsalaried)

Managing Director: Alexander Gross (salaried)

Auditors (unsalaried): Ute Henninger-Sehling, Dr. Christian Rüschi. *Main function: Advising the board of directors in the fields of finance, control of 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.

Employees: (salaried): 8 in Freiburg, 1 in South America, 1 in India, 1 in Bangladesh

Association members: 8

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

PARTNER ASSOCIATIONS

Our two partner associations in Switzerland and Austria share our goal: to give children with cleft lip and palate a chance in life.

➤ **Schweizer Hilfe für Spaltkinder, Therwil:** Our partner association is staffed entirely by volunteers and finances the treatments at our Indian cleft center in Patna.

➤ **Austrian Cleft Kinderhilfe, Dornbirn:** Our Austrian partner association was founded at the end of 2019. In 2020, the association's first active year, Austrian Cleft Kinderhilfe financed 44 operations for cleft children in India.

LOCAL TEAMS ENSURE CARE FOR CLEFT CHILDREN

We were able to provide surgeries to 4,634 cleft patients in 2020. Against the background of world-wide “lockdowns” and many other new difficulties facing us in our work as a result of the pandemic, this is a very positive result. While many organizations whose help is based on deploying teams from abroad have had to cease their activities due to travel restrictions, our local partners can continue to be there for the children. Most of our little patients and their families live in great poverty. The help they receive from our local teams gives them hope in these difficult times.

Our work continues: With new hygiene protocols and protective measures our teams continue to provide help to cleft children, despite the pandemic.



A success story: Matias from Bolivia, the child in our cover image, receives his first surgery in February, just before Bolivia enacts a lockdown. After a forced break of three months in our work, his cleft palate is closed in a second surgery.

A ray of hope: The parents of many of our patients make their living with odd jobs. Due to the pandemic, this is now often more difficult, or even has become completely impossible. That at least their children can receive the treatment they need for free means one fewer worry for them in these trying times.



AID FOR CLEFT CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

Despite the Corona pandemic, we were able to provide 4,634 operations in 2020. At 48 locations in nine countries, our local teams mastered the unexpected challenges and continued our help for cleft children. New hygiene and safety concepts were created, which resulted in an added cost per surgery of an average of 50 euros. As a result, we have increased our average estimated cost per surgery to EUR 300 in 2021. In India and Bangladesh, in addition to our help for cleft children, we provided financial support to families as part of Covid-19 emergency programs.

Surgeries per year, 2016 – 2020

| | |
|------|-------|
| 2016 | 4,225 |
| 2017 | 4,289 |
| 2018 | 5,088 |
| 2019 | 6,280 |
| 2020 | 4,634 |

Surgeries by country, total

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| India | 31,544 |
| Bangladesh | 7,196 |
| Peru | 4,686 |
| Pakistan | 4,101 |
| Vietnam | 3,509 |
| Bolivia | 2,461 |
| Afghanistan | 1,426 |
| Cameroon | 1,292 |
| Philippines | 679 |
| Tajikistan | 212 |
| Indonesia | 215 |
| Rwanda | 143 |
| Tanzania | 92 |
| Burundi | 85 |
| Uganda | 74 |
| TOTAL | 57,515 |



PERU

BOLIVIA



UND THE WORLD – SINCE 2002



A VERY SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

India, January 2020: We, Ulrike Claassens and Andrea Weiberg, are offered the chance to experience our largest aid project up close. We visited six cleft centers and got to witness our teams' daily work with our own eyes, "live" on site. Deeply impressed by the professionalism and commitment of our Indian colleagues and partners, we would like to use this opportunity to again say thank you for giving us this invaluable experience!

FIRST STOP: MYSURU

We visit our cleft center in Mysuru. Cleft patients receive comprehensive care here: surgery, dentistry, orthodontics, speech therapy, ENT and psychology - all relevant specialist disciplines are under one roof and work hand in hand. Dr. Manu Prasad heads our cleft center in Mysuru. For the first time we get to witness a cleft surgery. We are impressed by the professionalism, calm and warmth with which our team takes care of their little patients.



Left to right: Dr. Dushyant Prasad, Mithun Amin, Dr. Jayanth, Prashanth G, Annie Jayaraj, Andrea Weiberg, Muyeen Pasha, Ulrike Claassens

WITNESSING OUR AID

Since 2013, our help for cleft children in India has been organized locally by our partner organization ABMSS, based in Bengaluru. The ABMSS team, led by our highly experienced colleague Dr. Dushyant Prasad (pictured far

SECOND STOP: HYDERABAD

Three cleft centers in one day - our stay in Hyderabad has been painstakingly planned. One of the lead surgeons is Dr. Vijay Kumar. He operates some 20 cleft children per month. We meet Rohith and his mother. The boy has received palate surgery two days earlier and is due to be discharged today. His mother is full of gratitude and is happy to meet the surprise guests from Germany.





WORK ON SITE

left), coordinates our 26 Indian locations. Our stay was perfectly prepared by our hosts to ensure that we received a comprehensive insight into the work on site - an inspiring exchange for both sides.

THIRD STOP: KOLKATA

Our cleft center in Kolkata, under the direction of Dr. Siddhartha, has developed into our most prolific treatment center in India within two years. Some 400 operations per year are performed here, and patients also benefit from a comprehensive selection of other important therapies. We are once again allowed to witness two surgeries and are invited to visit three recently operated patients at their homes. Mausam's family, seven of whom live in a tiny room, gives us a warm welcome.



Ulrike and Andrea in India

Thursday, 16.1. Flight to Bangalore
 Friday, 17.1. Bangalore – Mysore (by car)
 Saturday, 18.1. Mysore (Surgery/CCC)
 Sunday, 19.1. Mysore – Hyderabad
 (by plane, arriving in the evening)
 Monday, 20.1. Hyderabad Centre
 Tuesday, 21.1. Hyderabad – Kolkata
 (by plane, arriving in the morning)
 Wednesday, 22.1. Kolkata Centre
 Thursday, 23.1. Kolkata Sightseeing – Bangalore
 (by plane, arriving in the evening)
 Friday, 24.1. Bangalore
 Saturday, 25.1. Bangalore
 Sunday, 26.1. Bangalore
 Monday, 27.1. Bangalore
 Tuesday, 28.1. Back to Germany



Our Indian hosts organized our visit perfectly to let us experience as much as possible.

FOURTH STOP: BENGALURU

We spend the last four days of our visit in Bengaluru. We visit the local cleft center, which, like its counterpart in Kolkata, offers patients "comprehensive cleft care", meaning many medical disciplines working hand in hand for the best results for the patients. The cleft center is headed by Dr. Jayanth. The experienced surgeon also is the contact person for the teams in our other 26 Indian cleft centers as our medical supervisor.



> OUR PROJECTS

Our team in Mysuru has been caring for Hussain for almost two years now. The picture shows Hussain in late 2020, shortly after his palate surgery. Today, Hussain is five years old. He is a cheerful boy, whose life is now better thanks to the treatments we were able to make possible for him.

OUR TREATMENT SPECTRUM

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

INDIA

CORONA: THE POOREST ARE HIT THE HARDEST

Corona hits the poorest of the poor particularly hard. In India, millions of day laborers and migrant workers have suddenly found themselves out of work. They can no longer make a living, and some of them have lost the roof over their heads. On top of that, there is the fear of getting infected. Many people live in confined spaces, where the risk of infection is high.

Hussain lives with his parents and three siblings in one of the slums in Mysuru, the third largest city in the state of Karnataka. There is a lack of drinking water and electricity. **Bad hygienic conditions in the slum promote the spread of diseases such as typhoid, tuberculosis, and now Covid 19. As the weakest link in the chain, children suffer especially.** Hussain was three years old when the team of our cleft center in Mysuru met him in spring 2019. **The boy had been living with a large bilateral cleft lip as well as an open palate since he was born, avoiding other children: they tease him because of the cleft in his face and because he can't speak properly yet.** And Hussain is often sick: His cleft palate makes him susceptible to infections. When we find him, he has severe pneumonia and cannot receive surgery until he is healthy again.

Dr. Manu Prasad heads the cleft center in Mysuru. He keeps in touch with Hussain's family. He knows that getting proper treatment is momentarily important for the boy's future. In November 2019, he closes Hussain's cleft lip. From then, it will take less than a year before Hussain's palate surgery. The appointment has to be postponed twice due to Hussain, who is often left to his own devices, having minor accidents. The important second intervention takes place in late 2020: Hussain now is almost five years old. He is a happy boy, whose prospects in life have suddenly dramatically improved.

With an expected 3,000 operations in 2021 and currently 26 locations, India is our largest project country. Around 40,000 children are born with cleft lip and palate every year in the huge, populous country. Like Hussain, many of them come from the poorest of backgrounds and never receive treatment, or are treated late. The consequences can be fatal.



Project start: 2003 | Locations: 26

Project partner: ABMSS, Bengaluru

Treatment spectrum: ★★ (4 centers);

★★ (20 centers); ★ (2 centers)

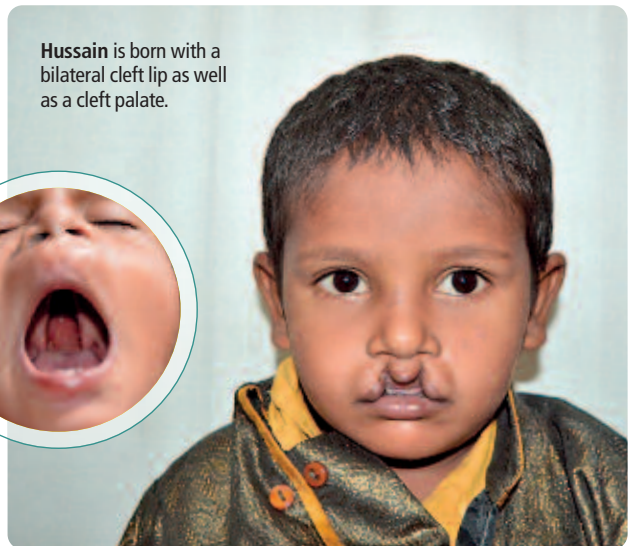
Surgeries total, all years: 31,544

Surgeries 2020: 1,722

Additional measures 2020: Covid-19 emergency aid

Total funding 2020: 752,231 Euro

Hussain is born with a bilateral cleft lip as well as a cleft palate.



Around eight out of every hundred cleft children in India die before their first birthday. Malnutrition, a higher susceptibility to infections and social neglect are the most common causes. These children need our help. With an operation we can give their life a perspective. Proper treatment is the prerequisite for cleft children to grow up healthy, find a place in society, and have a chance to be better off than their parents one day.

BANGLADESH

GROWING OUR PROJECT: TRAINING MORE SURGEONS

We continue to make steady progress in expanding our capacities in Bangladesh: Since the last expansion of our surgical team in 2018, four surgeons have been providing help to cleft children. At the end of 2020 we started a program to train two additional junior surgeons to also become cleft surgeons.

Cleft surgeries are performed by an oral and maxillofacial surgeon or a plastic facial surgeon. There are few doctors in Bangladesh who are trained to treat facial clefts. The medical infrastructure is poor, especially in rural areas. In addition, the treatment of cleft children from needy families is not lucrative for the doctors. Against this background, we for the first time initiated a program to provide specialist training to local surgeons in Bangladesh. Our goal is to be able to help even more children with two additional doctors, and, with a view to the age structure in our Bangladesh team, to ensure ahead of time that we have a new generation of surgeons in place when one or more of our current doctors decide to retire. At the end of 2020, we started looking for interested surgeons with a recruitment campaign and were able to win the surgeons Dr. Shantona Rani and Dr. Masfiquer Rahman as cleft surgery trainees and potential new team mem-



Project start: 2010

Project partner: Syed Nuruddin Ahmed

Development Foundation (SNAD Foundation)

Cooperation partner: Operation Cleft Australia (OCA)

Treatment spectrum: ✨

Surgeries total, all years: 7,196

Surgeries 2020: **1,233**

Additional measures 2020: **Covid-19 emergency aid**

Total funding 2020: **375,353 Euro**

bers. The focus of the twelve-month advanced training course is on learning various cleft operation techniques by observing our teams' operations within Bangladesh. A study visit to our experienced partner Professor Ganatra in Pakistan is also planned.



Cleft aid mission to Bogra, August 2020: Cleft patient Sadia awaiting her surgery with her mother.

PAKISTAN

PROJECT EXPANDED WITH GERMAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

A cleft lip and palate can cause far-reaching functional disorders. Depending on the type and extent of the cleft, closing the cleft via surgery is not enough. Instead, a comprehensive therapy is required afterwards, with multiple medical disciplines working hand in hand.

We have been active in Pakistan since 2013. After three years of building our structures, we were able to win the surgeon Prof. Ganatra as an important new project partner in 2016. Thanks to him, funding from the German Federal Foreign Office and follow-up funding from the German charity Bild hilft e.V., we were able to significantly expand our aid in Pakistan. Prof. Ganatra and his team carry out some 800 operations per year. Further treatments, such as speech therapy and orthodontics, were so far only available sporadically. In order to further develop our structures, we applied for funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The application was ultimately approved in late 2020. The funding covers measures for the socio-economic integration of cleft children. Comprehensive treatment with speech therapy, ENT medicine, orthodontics and psychosocial care help the children to do better in school and society. One of the main goals of the three-year BMZ project therefore is to set up a cleft center where the children can receive interdisciplinary care.



Again and again, our team in Pakistan encounters older children who have not received treatment yet. This is nine-year old Ali, who received his surgery in February.



Project start: 2013

Project partner: Al-Mustafa Welfare Society

Project leader: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Ganatra

Treatment spectrum: ★★

Surgeries total, all years: 4,101

Surgeries 2020: **631**

Additional measures 2020: **Founding of an interdisciplinary cleft center**

Total funding 2020: **143,148 Euro**



BOLIVIA

DOUBLING OF SURGERY NUMBERS
THANKS TO A NEW PARTNER

In May 2020, we signed a cooperation with the Bolivian organization Ayninakuna (Fundación para la Salud Ayninakuna Dr. Roberto Edmundo Rosa Rellini). Thanks to Ayninakuna as our third partner, the number of surgeries we were able to offer tripled compared to the previous year.



Ayninakuna was founded in 2017 under the direction of the renowned pediatric surgeon Dr. Roberto Edmundo Rosa Rellini. His life's work was a cleft center that he built up over the years in the Aranjuez Clinic in Cochabamba. 86 percent of Ayninakuna patients start their treatment in their first year of life. The Ayninankuna treatment protocol provides for comprehensive and long-term care for the children. They receive orthodontics treatment and speech therapy as required, and NAM (Nasoalveolar Molding) is used to prepare the children for their surgeries. The childrens' families receive psychosocial support right from the start of their treatment journey. After the death of Dr. Rellini, the surgeon Dr. Eligio Rolanda Acienega Llano took over the management of the cleft center.

We are pleased to have gained a new partner in Bolivia with Ayninykuna. In the South American Andean state, the care of cleft children is to a large degree ensured by aid organizations. With our three project locations, we are the most important provider of aid for cleft children in Bolivia.



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

Project leader: Dr. Eligio Rolanda Acienega Llano

Treatment spectrum: ★ ★

Surgeries total, all years: 2,461

Surgeries 2020: **448**

Additional measures 2020: Covid-19 protection

Total funding 2020: **177,873 Euro**



Esteban received his surgery in August 2020 from Dr. Eligio.

PERU

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS
DUE TO CORONA

In Peru we sadly saw a massive drop in the number of operations in 2020. As a result of the high number of Corona infections, no cleft operations could be performed in the country for many weeks. That our two Peruvian project leaders, Dr. Alberto Bardales (63) and Dr. Mario Cornejo (68) themselves are at increased risk from Covid 19 due to their age further added to the difficulties.

Our Peruvian partner organization Qorito, led by Dr. Alberto Bardales, managed to do two missions before the first lockdown was enacted in the country. The first mission took place at the end of January, to Azángaro, a city in southern Peru in the Puno region. The team operated 32 cleft children over three days, and more patients came for control appointments and follow-up treatments. It was a very special mission for Alberto Bardales: Azángaro is his hometown. Qorito and Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe were honored by the mayor of the city and the state government of Puno for their commitment and long-term medical help for cleft patients from poor backgrounds in Peru. Many thanks once again to the German charity Sternstunden e.V., which provided funding.



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: 4,686

Surgeries 2020: 104

Additional measures 2020: Covid-19 protection

Total funding 2020: 70,998 Euro



Our long-standing partner Dr. Alberto Bardales (left) at work.

VIETNAM

DEPENDABLE HELP: MORE SURGERIES ENABLED

In Vietnam we are happy to report an increase in the number of surgeries we've been able to provide. 331 surgeries were realized at our three treatment locations, 123 more than last year!

Dr. Ai leads one of our two projects in Hanoi. Every now and then there are orphans among his patients. And unfortunately it still happens that children are abandoned by their parents because of their cleft. Dr. Ai maintains contact with the orphanages in the surrounding regions and is notified when a child with a cleft lip and palate has been admitted. We are grateful that we can give these children free treatment and thereby improve their lives a little. Unfortunately, the annual training visit to Vietnam of our two volunteer project managers, the German surgeons Dr. Dr. Denys Loeffelbein and Dr. Daniel Lonic, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We hope that this valuable meeting with the Vietnamese teams in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City will be possible again in 2022.



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) National Children's Hospital, Hanoi

Cooperation partner (2/3): Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation Taiwan (NCF)

Treatment spectrum: ★ ★ ★

Surgeries total, all years: 3,509

Surgeries 2020: 331

Total funding 2020: 73,241 Euro



Kanh lives in an orphanage. Dr. Ai operates the boy in October 2020. He is happy to see his little patient again two month later at his check-up, thriving and doing well.

RWANDA/TANZANIA/SOMALIA

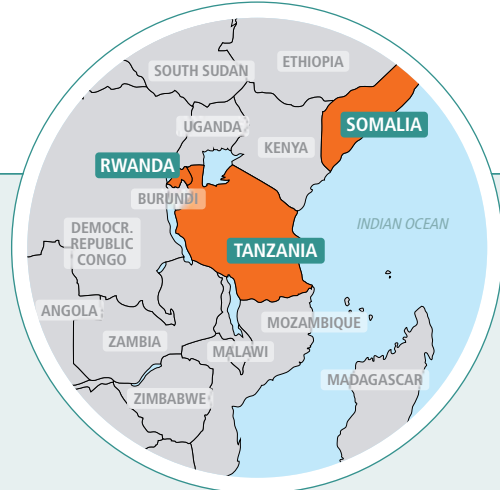
MISSION IN RWANDA /
NEW PROJECT: SOMALIA

A mission to Rwanda, which took place shortly before the border was closed, and the construction of a cleft hospital as the first step in the opening of a new project location in Somalia were the highlights of our work to help cleft children in East Africa in 2020.



A well-rehearsed team:
Gunther Au-Balbach and
Dr. Laurent Siborurema

Rwanda was one of the first countries to close its borders in response to the pandemic. It is thanks to our many years of development work and our good reputation in Rwanda that the aid mission, which had been planned long in advance, was still able to take place as planned in February. Dr. Dr. Oliver Blume and Gunther Au-Balbach, who have been indispensable to us for many years as unpaid volunteers, were able to operate 26 cleft children in ten days alongside our local team. The youngest patient was just two months old. Dr. Laurent operated six more children in October 2020. Another focus of our aid for cleft children in East Africa in 2020 was the work towards a new location in Somalia, including the construction of a cleft hospital in Garoowe (Puntland). An intense planning phase and initial investments of 50,000 euros culminated in the groundbreaking ceremony in January 2021. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mohamed Ali, the founder and head of our partner organization Somalia Medical Care e.V. (Somcare), from Heidelberg.



Project start: 2011 Rwanda/2016 Tanzania/2020 Somalia
Project partner: Rulenge-Ngara Diocese (Tanzania),
Rwamagana Provincial Hospital (Rwanda)/
Project leader: Dr. Laurent Siborurema
Cooperation partner Somalia: Somalia Medical Care e.V.
Treatment spectrum: ★
Surgeries total, all years: 235

Surgeries 2020 (Rwanda): 32
Additional measures 2020: Preparation for a new
project location in Somalia, construction of a hos-
pital with cleft center in Puntland
Total funding 2020: 106,851 Euro



Dr. Dr. Oliver Blume
with one of our tiniest
patients.

AFGHANISTAN

OFFERING AID IN WAR
AND CRISIS

Last year our Afghan project partners once again demonstrated their ability to work under the most difficult of conditions. Despite the still-tense security situation and additional new challenges due to the outbreak of the pandemic, our surgeons in Kunduz and Mazar-i-Sharif continued to offer a reliable point of contact for cleft patients in 2020.

114 surgeries - almost as many as in 2019 - were performed by our three surgeons, Dr. Nooria Zia / Dr. Wahed Ershad (Mazar-i-Sharif) and Dr. Sebghatullah Natory (Kunduz) in 2020. Attacks and assassinations unfortunately continue to be part of everyday life in Afghanistan. We are grateful for the courage and perseverance of our teams, who have been working unswervingly for cleft children in the crisis-ridden country since 2010. Our thanks also go to the Nader Etmenan Foundation for their support.



Project start: 2010

Project partner: 1) Dr. Sebghatullah Natory, Kunduz

2) Dr. Habibullah Atif, Faizabad

3) Dr. Nooria Zia & Dr. Wahed Ershad, Mazar-i-Sharif

Treatment spectrum: ✨

Surgeries total, all years: 1,426

Surgeries 2020: 114

Additional measures 2020: Covid-19 protection

Total funding 2020: 38,009 Euro



Aatea is treated by Dr. Natory in Kunduz. He closes her large, disfiguring cleft lip. Her palate surgery, the next step, is still pending.



INDONESIA

GERMAN-INDONESIAN
AID MISSION TO JAVA

Our work to help cleft children in Indonesia faces many organizational challenges: Many of the more remote island regions of the large country are difficult to reach. Every mission requires careful planning. Our Indonesian aid project is particularly affected by the Corona-related travel restrictions.

Dr. Ulrike Lamlé, who supervises our aid work in Indonesia as an unpaid volunteer, spends the days of January 31 to February 2 on a surgical mission in Serang. In cooperation with the local Ministry of Health, 35 children with cleft lip and palate from the region were identified in advance. Of the 26 little patients who actually showed up to our clinic with their parents, 19 received surgery. The other seven could not be treated this time due to their poor health. In view of the rapidly changing pandemic situation, we are glad that we were able to perform this mission before the lockdown was enacted.



Project start: 2014

Project partner: RSUD Dr. Saiful Anwar Hospital /

Project leader: Prof. Bambang Pardjianto

Treatment spectrum: ★

Surgeries total, all years: 215

Surgeries 2020: 19

Additional measures 2020: **Evaluation of a speech therapy project**

Total funding 2020: **13,542 Euro**



Dr. Ulrike Lamlé surrounded by our Indonesian patients and their mothers.

SUPPORTING CLEFT CHILDREN

Creativity in a crisis

Normally, our corporate partner PlusDental's 3-D printers are used to produce transparent dental aligners. In 2020, a new application is added spontaneously in response to a great need: More than 7,000 protective visors were produced in additional night and weekend shifts and distributed free of charge to medical facilities. A parallel appeal for donations raises funds for 16 cleft children to have their operation!



Local support

Creativity for a good cause is also the motto of Constanze Fontanive and the team at the Gundelfingen organic store, not far from our association headquarters in the neighboring city of Freiburg. Hand-sewn cloth masks are sold and the proceeds split among two charities. Our share: the surgery for a cleft child!



Help for the "poor children with a slit"

These are Pia (4) and Lea (2). Lea was born with a cleft lip and palate. Her sister Pia was just three years old when she initiated her first fundraising campaign - for the "poor children with a slit". During Christmas 2020 she again raises donations from her family. This time Lea happily joins the effort herself. Together, they want to help the children who live in countries where treatment is harder to come by than it was for Lea. Funding for one whole surgery is the result. Many thanks to our, as far as we know, youngest donors!










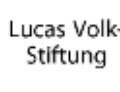







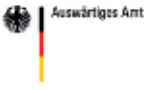



„Thank you!“ from the bottom of our hearts!

Our help for cleft children is only possible thanks to our many donors. Their willingness to help remained unbroken in 2020. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters for this 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. The proceeds from four such donations are over 80,000 euros. Thank you all for your trust in our work!

Institutional donors

Our heartfelt thanks!

| | | | | | |
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| <div>  Lore-Keller-Stiftung </div> | | | | | |
|  Sternstunden e. V. |  BILD hilft e.V. Ein Herz für Kinder |  Dr. Martin Andreas Stiftung |  Chow Thai Fook Medical Foundation |  Operation Cleft Australia |  Charlotte- Steppuhn-Stiftung |
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Corporate partners and private donors

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Plastimat GmbH › Amann Girrback AG/Amann Girrback GmbH › MESTO Spritzenfabrik Ernst Stockburger GmbH › Sunshine Smile GmbH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Change Sportswear GmbH & Co. KG › botiss dental GmbH/ botiss medical AG › Singhoff GmbH › BFS health finance GmbH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Familien Markus und Thomas Alber › Dr. Andreas Raab › Geoffrey Hedges › Margarethe Meuser |
|---|--|--|



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 the seal, 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.

PREPARED FOR BIG CHALLENGES

Long lists of thousands of cleft children awaiting their surgeries are the sad result of the year 2020. While many aid organizations had to partially or almost completely cease their activities due to travel restrictions, our local teams are still doing their work offering dependable aid for cleft children. Corona tests and additional protective measures were integrated into the treatment process as new standards. These measures led to an increase in surgery costs, which we now calculate at an average of 300 euros - 50 euros more than before. In Bangladesh and India, where the population has been particularly hard hit by the pandemic, we provided additional help in 2020 as part of country-specific Covid-19 emergency programs. Despite the new challenges, our primary goal remains to provide as many cleft children as possible with access to qualified and safe treatment. India is still our largest project country, with around 3,000 operations per year and more than 20 locations.

Our goal in Bangladesh in 2021 is 1,700 operations. At the end of 2020 we started a specialist training program: Two young surgeons are now being trained in cleft surgery by our Bangladesh team. If all goes well, we will have six surgeons offering cleft treatment in Bangladesh in 2022.

In Pakistan, we are happy to have secured funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The focus of the three-year project is the establishment of an interdisciplinary cleft center in Karachi. In Bolivia we have successfully expanded our network in recent years and are now the most important organization offering treatment for cleft patients.

In Garoowe, the capital of Puntland (Somalia), the construction of the hospital we co-financed is progressing. We are hoping to ultimately create a treatment point for cleft children from Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya here. Vietnam is one of the countries that have navigated the Corona crisis the best so far. Nearly normal operations are possible at our three locations here.

Outlook

The pandemic will continue to impact our activities in 2021, and our partners will continue to have to react to ever new challenges. Depending on the country, the effects are more or less severe. And yet we look to the future with confidence. Our teams are now "pandemic-tested" and work tirelessly to help the children and their families in these difficult times and to give them a perspective. We want to achieve 6,500 operations. We hope that a little more normality will be possible next year, which will be a very special one for us: In 2022, Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe will celebrate its 20th anniversary!

Advertising & public relations

A good rapport with our donors is the indispensable foundation of our work. Our team in Freiburg is the point of contact for all questions and other concerns. Additionally, we communicated information about our activities through seven donation letters in 2020. We sent out our 2019 annual report in June 2020. Our online presence is based around our website (spaltkinder.org) and social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) as well as our e-mail newsletter. The concept and text are developed internally, while the layout and design are partially done internally, partially by an external service provider. Since November 2020, our online donations have been processed by Altruja GmbH (Munich), which has enabled us to offer our donors new payment options. We were also supported by the following service providers: Design > MSGmedia - Sebastian Schampera (Freiburg). Printing and dispatch control > Burger Druck GmbH (Waldkirch), Drescher Full-Service Versand GmbH (Offenburg) and a + s Dialog-Group GmbH (Ditzingen). Online Marketing > The Cookie Labs GmbH (Munich). An important tool for attracting new donors is our TV spot, which was again shown pro bono on various channels of the RTL Mediengruppe in 2020.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020

For us, the pandemic was accompanied by an extraordinary willingness to donate: in 2020 we received donations of EUR 2.729 million. Our total expenditure was 2.251 million euros. Due to the pandemic, the expenses for fulfilling our statutory purposes in 2020 fell by EUR 250 thousand compared to the previous year: EUR 1.761 million was used to maintain our aid projects. Spending on advertising and public relations was EUR 406 thousand and thus made up 18% of the total expenditure. The administrative expenses amounted to EUR 84 thousand, which corresponds to a share of 3.7% of the total expenditure. EUR 480 thousand will be added to the unused donation funds as a financial reserve.

The annual financial statements will be audited by an auditing firm, and the results will be published in a detailed version of our annual report on our website in October 2021.



20 cleft children receiving their surgery are the happy result of our aid mission to Java (see report on page 19).

Thank you all
from the
bottom of our
hearts!



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

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BIC: BFSWDE33HAN
SEPA creditor identification number:
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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.