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www.spaltkinder.org

Worldwide aid for cleft children

Annual Report 2022



Deutsche Cleft
Kinderhilfe e.V.

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Kevin from Peru received his second surgery in 2022. Go to page 19 to see how much our help has improved this boy's life.

Impressum

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PREFACE

DEAR DONORS AND FRIENDS OF DEUTSCHE CLEFT KINDERHILFE,



On September 11, 2002, Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe was founded. From the first day, we have dedicated ourselves to one mission: to help children

with cleft deformities in countries where access to qualified treatment is not guaranteed.

Over the last 20 years our association has developed impressively: In 2022, we provided help to cleft children in eleven countries on three continents. Our efforts have always been based around local teams. Thanks to them, we have been able to provide more than 70,000 surgeries to date. And we have succeeded in establishing interdisciplinary cleft treatment structures providing therapies beyond surgery in most of our project countries.

I am proud to be part of this success story. Over the last twenty years, we have been able to give thousands of children a new life, and thousands of families new happiness. The thanks are due to you: without you and your support all this would not have been possible.

I very much look forward to starting the next decade of "Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe" with

Your 

Prof. Dr. Frank Feyerherd

ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE

The structure of the association effective as of the ordinary general assembly of July 29, 2022 is shown below.

Board of Directors: Alexander Gross (Chairman, salaried), Andrea Weiberg (salaried), Prof. Dr. Frank Feyerherd (voluntary), Thomas Schneider (voluntary)

General assembly: The general assembly has a control function. This includes, among other things, the election and dismissal of board members, the approval of the budget drawn up by the board, and the discharge of the board.

Association members: 8

Managing Director: Andrea Weiberg (salaried)

Auditors (voluntary): Ute Henninger-Sehling, Dr. Christian Ruesch. *Main function: Supervision of the Board of Directors in the area of finances and control of asset management*

Board of Trustees (voluntary): Prof. Dr. Dr. Juergen Dieckmann, Prof. Dr. Dr. Goetz Ehmann, Dr. Ulrike Lamlé, Dr. Dr. Oliver Blume, Gunther Au-Balbach, Dr. Jos van den Hoek. *Function: Advisory expert committee from the fields of oral and maxillofacial surgery, ENT surgery and orthodontics*

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

Volunteer project support: Vietnam: PD Dr. Dr. Denys Loeffelbein, PD Dr. Daniel Lonic; Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia: Dr. Ulrike Lamlé; Rwanda: Dr. Dr. Oliver Blume, Gunther Au-Balbach; Costa Rica: Dr. Martin Andreas

Partner associations:

Therwil, Switzerland: Schweizer Hilfe für Spaltkinder, www.spaltkinder.ch

Dornbirn, Austria: Austrian Cleft Kinderhilfe, www.spaltkinder.at

WORLDWIDE AID FOR CLEFT

Having already achieved a record result in 2021, we are pleased to have again seen an increase in the number of cleft surgeries provided in our anniversary year. 7,899 surgeries are the final result of our efforts in 2022 – an impressive one thousand more than in the previous year. Our three focus countries India, Bangladesh and Pakistan made a decisive contribution to the final tally. We also added Somalia and Ethiopia as countries where we are providing cleft care in 2022, bringing the number of our project countries to 11.

Surgeries per year 2018-2022

2018	5,088
2019	6,280
2020	4,634
2021	6,878
2022	7,899

Cumulative surgeries by country (all years)

India	38,166
Bangladesh	10,449
Pakistan	6,501
Peru	4,890
Vietnam	4,287
Bolivia	3,656
Afghanistan	1,524
Cameroon	1,292
Philippines	679
Indonesia	215
Tajikistan	212
Rwanda	187
Somalia	100
Tanzania	92
Burundi	85
Uganda	74
Ethiopia	73
Nicaragua	10

TOTAL 72,492

NICARAGUA

8 ops
2022

PERU

137 ops
2022

BOLIVIA

579 ops
2022



CHILDREN – since 2002



A COMMON MISSION

WHEN EVERYONE GIVES THEIR BEST!

Every day, all over the world, children are born with cleft lip and palate (CLP). Many hundred children per day, that's a fact. That is why it is so important to come together to provide help – hand in hand, across all religious and cultural differences.

The work of Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe always keeps the long-term perspective in mind. And it is based on stable partnerships that enable steady progress. Both quantitatively - such as in the number of surgeries and treatments performed - and qualitatively, such as in the expansion of the orthodontic or speech therapy services offered.

For more than 20 years now, we have been successful in finding people from many cultural backgrounds who want to bring professionally qualified and sustainable care to children and families affected by cleft, and who are willing to work continuously and hard for this goal. Because we can only move moun-



”

„The need for help is still massive.“

tains when everyone involved gives their best! We have to do this, because there are still far too many newborns with a cleft malformation in the world who are not treated at all, or receive treatment that is inadequate or even medically substandard. It will probably be decades before health ministries in poorer countries assume the responsibility for the medical care of CLP patients. The general problems of underdevelopment and population growth are often too great. The fate of a single family with a cleft child is dwarfed by these other problems, especially if the child and family are from poor backgrounds. Thus, our work is also driven by the distress into which many families - and especially the women in the families – are plunged when a baby is born with a cleft lip and palate.

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart, dear benefactor, dear supporter of our work, for standing by us and thus enabling us to effectively help those affected and to further expand our aid infrastructures.

*Alexander Gross,
Founding Member of Deutsche
Cleft Kinderhilfe and
Chairman of the Board*



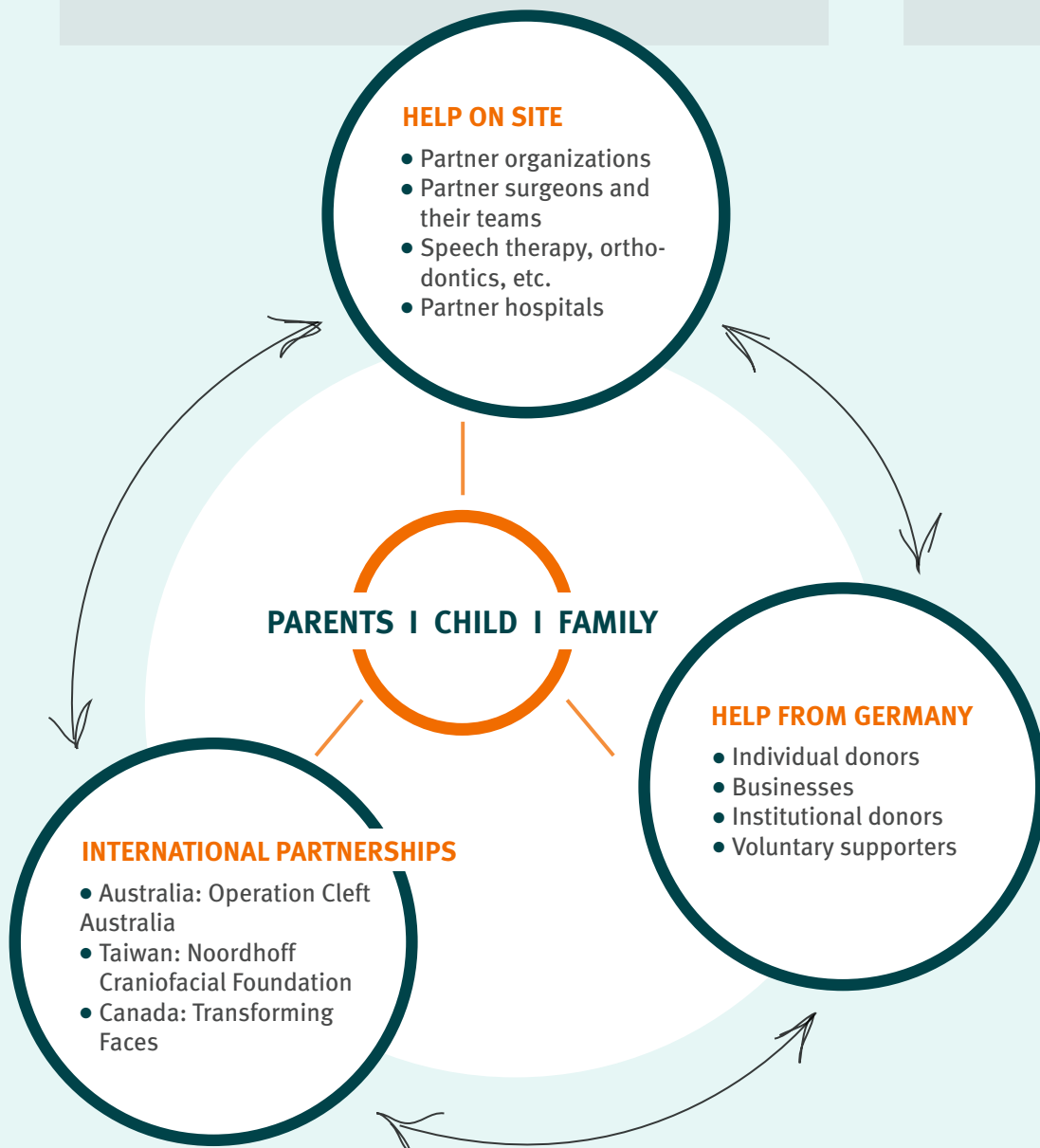
HAND IN HAND

OUR NETWORK OF AID

The foundation of our help and the basis for our successful development over the past 20 years is our diverse world of relationships.

From day one, we have been dedicated to one mission: to help children who cannot help that they were born with a cleft - a chance event that massively affects their lives. Since the founding of our association,

many people have joined us on this mission. This has given rise to new ideas, new opportunities, new perspectives. We would like to take this opportunity to say „thank you“ to all these people, our fellow campaigners worldwide. Thank you for your trust, thank you for continuing to work hand in hand with us. Together, we can continue to achieve a great deal in the future.



SINCE 2002: HELP FOR CHILDREN WITH CLEFT LIP AND PALATE

Our anniversary was a great opportunity for us to take a trip down memory lane and look back on 20 years of Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe.



2002

Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe is founded in Freiburg on September 11, 2002: Founding members, and still wholeheartedly involved today: Stefan Rivald, Nicole Reinbold, Alexander Gross and Dr. Christian Rüschi (not pictured).

First surgeries in India and Cameroon: until 2014, anesthesiologist Prof. Dr. Frank Feyerherd, now a honorary member of our board, guides our work in Cameroon.

2003



2005

Co-presidency: The two oral and maxillofacial surgeons Dr. Dr. Heinz Lübke († 2015) and Prof. Dr. Dr. Jürgen Dieckmann (now a member of the board of trustees) mould the association.



2013

Tom Schneider joins our board of directors: as an honorary member, he continues to contribute his great passion, his international network and entrepreneurial thinking.

Heinz Lübke passes away. Frank Feyerherd takes over as chairman of the board: to this day, he continues as an honorary board member of Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe.

2015



2020

The Coronavirus shock: With the outbreak of the pandemic, our teams face new challenges. Despite lockdowns, travel restrictions and more difficult working conditions, they continue to be there for children and their families, providing more than 4,000 surgeries.

New management: On July 31, Andrea Weiberg is appointed Managing Director of Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe by the General Assembly and since then forms the operational Board of Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe together with Alexander Gross as Chairman of the Board.

2021



We rummaged through our picture archives, collected stories and remembered special moments and people who decisively helped to shape – and continue to shape – our association. We would like to take you on a journey through time with some major milestones from two decades of „Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe“ - and a brief peek ahead into our next decade.

2006

Project start in Peru: The aid project initiated by Dr. Ulrike Lamlé in Lima has been under the direction of Dr. Alberto Bardales from its inception until today. Our aid in Vietnam is established with a first project in Hanoi.



2009

Uganda – our first project in East Africa, completed 2016: In 2022, we were active in Rwanda, Ethiopia and Somalia. Our aid in East Africa has been under the leadership of Dr. Dr. Oliver Blume and Gunther Au-Balbach from day one.



2010

First project locations in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Bolivia: Bangladesh and Bolivia have become focus countries of our work in the last four years.



2016

Cooperation with the Taiwanese aid organization Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation: We expand our aid in Vietnam with a second location in Ho-Chi-Minh City. The project is overseen by PD Dr. Daniel Lonic and PD Dr. Dr. Denys Loeffelbein.



2018

Two new partnerships: In Bangladesh, we are able to expand our team and double the number of surgeries thanks to support from Operation Cleft Australia. The Canadian aid organization Transforming Faces funds the development of interdisciplinary cleft centers in India.



2023

Our teams have provided more than 70,000 surgeries worldwide in the last 20 years. If the work tempo of the last two years holds, another 70,000 surgeries by 2032 are a realistic goal.



2022

Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe celebrates its 20th anniversary with a charity concert by the Daimler Symphony Orchestra Stuttgart. Stuttgart, Heinz Lübke's former hometown, had already been the venue for the 10th anniversary as well.





CELEBRATION:

CHARITY CONCERT

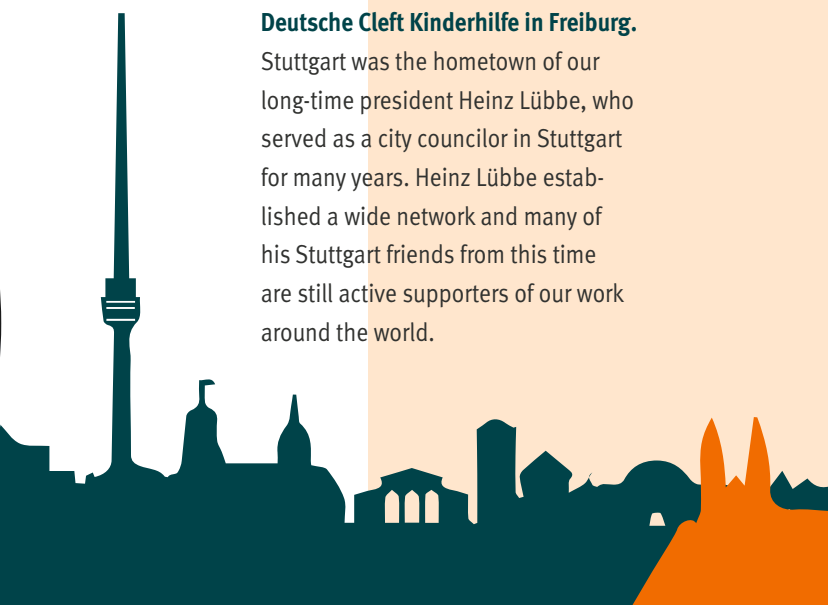
One of the highlights of our anniversary year was the charity concert of the Daimler Symphony Orchestra Stuttgart. On November 26, the orchestra performed at the Filharmonie in Filderstadt under the direction of conductor Matthias Baur. The program: Piano Concerto No. 1 by Johannes Brahms with soloist Marcel Mok, followed by Antonín Dvořák's 7th Symphony.

All proceeds from the ticket sales went towards funding help for children with cleft lip and palate. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank from the bottom of our hearts all participants, donors and contributors. We were especially happy to have Professor h. c. Dr. Wolfgang Schuster open the concert with a greeting. Wolfgang Schuster was mayor of Stuttgart from 1997 to 2013, and at that time a friend of our former President Heinz Lübke. In 2008, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the city partnership between Stuttgart and Mumbai, the two opened a Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe cleft center in Mumbai together. Memories of this occasion and the honorable remembrance of Heinz Lübke were part of his speech.



There has always been a special connection between Stuttgart and Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe in Freiburg.

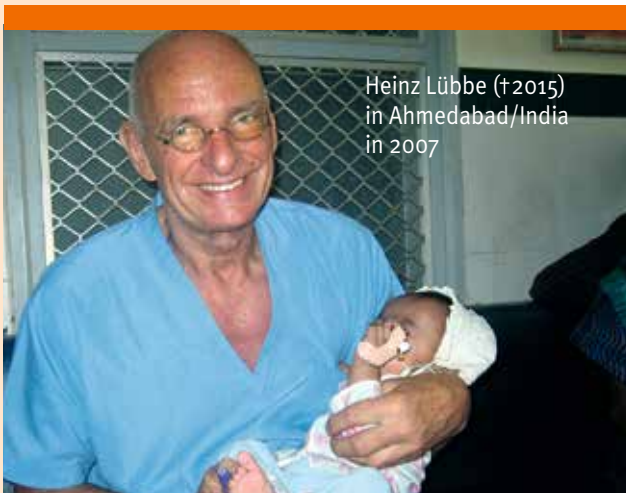
Stuttgart was the hometown of our long-time president Heinz Lübke, who served as a city councilor in Stuttgart for many years. Heinz Lübke established a wide network and many of his Stuttgart friends from this time are still active supporters of our work around the world.



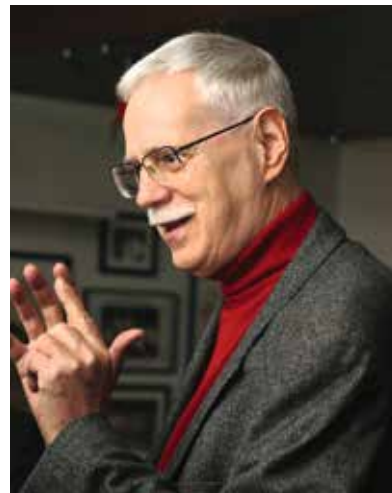
IN MEMORIAM:

DR. DR. MED. HEINZ LÜBBE AND CHRIS KELLER

Two outstanding personalities from Stuttgart who shaped and significantly promoted the development of Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe for ten years.



Heinz Lübke (†2015)
in Ahmedabad/India
in 2007



Benefactor, advisor
and friend: Chris Keller
(†2017)

When Heinz Lübke handed off his practice and decided to take on the presidency of Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe in 2005, it was a stroke of luck for our association. He knew the skills of our partner surgeons abroad and the plight of children born with a cleft lip and palate and their families. For him it was logical that the focus must be on local surgeons, doctors and therapists and not surgery missions from abroad. He represented their interests and, together with our association, ensured that the necessary resources were obtained. Heinz was not only an outstanding oral and maxillofacial surgeon, but also an energetic and successful fundraiser. That is how we all remember him and that is how we will continue to.

As founding chairman of the Lore Keller Foundation, Chris Keller substantially supported and accompanied our help for cleft children since 2007. Until shortly before his passing in late 2017, he was a supporter who was always interested in all projects, with his heart's desire being to help cleft-affected children in Africa. His extensive knowledge, intelligent foresight and kindness made every meeting with him a special experience. His death in late 2017 hit us hard. We are all the more grateful that his daughter Nina has taken over the chairmanship of the foundation and continues its support in his spirit.



FROM OUR PROJECTS

Safa is one of the little patients who received surgery during our first aid mission to Ethiopia.

TREATMENT SPECTRUM AND IMPACT MONITORING

The spectrum of treatment in our project countries varies. There are locations where our ability to help is limited to providing the basic surgeries. Regarding the development of a comprehensive treatment concept beyond the surgeries, we distinguish between projects where we offer isolated follow-up therapies in addition to surgery, and those that cover all relevant disciplines.

- ★ = Basic surgery
- ★ ★ = surgery + individual follow-up therapies
- ★ ★ ★ = surgery + comprehensive range of follow-up therapies offered

Every treatment is documented in our patient database. We monitor the impact of our activities through regular exchange with our project partners in the form of video conferences. In addition, the individual projects are supervised by German doctors working for us as volunteers. They make their expertise from all relevant disciplines available to our local partners. As a rule, they visit the project country they supervise once a year.

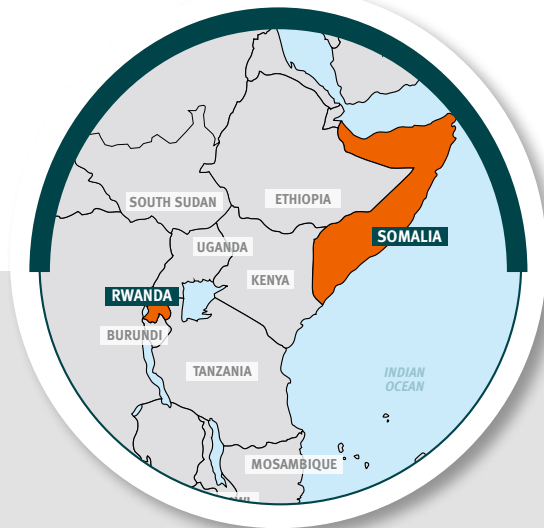
ETHIOPIA & SOMALIA, RWANDA

IMMENSE NEED

The African continent has always been a major focus of our association. Cameroon in Central Africa was our first project, along with India, in 2003. The beginning of our work in East Africa was in Uganda in 2009. By 2016, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania had been added.

Under the medical leadership of Dr. Dr. Oliver Blume and Gunther Au-Balbach - both members of our Board of Trustees - we succeeded in establishing an African team with the Ugandan anesthesiologist Dr. Emmanuel Munyarugero and the Rwandan surgeon Dr. Laurent Siborurema, which today treats cleft patients independently. Over the last two years, we have once again expanded our area of activity in East Africa. The focus of our cooperation with the aid organization Somalia Medical Care e.V. (Somcare) is on helping cleft children in the Somali settlement region. In Somalia, Somalis make up the majority of the population, and they also live in the neighboring areas of Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti. In our first active year, we conducted three relief missions. As the project is under development, there is currently no permanent medical team yet. The first mission in March 2022 in Garowe / Somalia was by Indian surgeons and anesthesiologists. In November, one of our teams from Bangladesh provided surgeries to cleft patients first in Ethiopia and then continued on to Garowe. All three missions were led by Dr. Ulrike Lamlé, also a member of our Board of Trustees.

The need for aid is immense. We were able to perform a total of 173 operations in Somalia and Ethiopia in 2022. The number of patients still waiting for their surgery is huge: parents with their babies or small children, young people and, sadly, many untreated adults as well. They all live with the hope that we will return soon. Their hope is our impetus to continue the development of this project over the coming years.



Projekt start: 2011 Rwanda/2020 Ethiopia & Somalia

Project partners: 1) Dr. Laurent Siborurema (Rwanda)
2) Somalia Medical Care e.V. (Ethiopia & Somalia)

Treatment spectrum: ★

Surgeries total, all years: 360

Surgeries 2022:

Ethiopia & Somalia: 173, Rwanda: 38

Funding Rwanda 2022: 62,406.06 Euro

Funding Ethiopia & Somalia 2022:

119,178.56 euros



Executive Director Andrea Weiberg accompanied our first aid mission to Ethiopia in November 2022.

INDIA

A STRONG NETWORK

Since the start of our aid effort in India in 2003, India has become our largest project country in terms of the number of sites and operations. Poverty, especially among the rural population, remains great and the need for care is correspondingly huge. In 2022, we again enabled more than 3,000 operations – for the second time after 2021.



In 2010, Pallavi, then one year old, received two surgeries in Patna (lip and palate surgery). Another surgery followed in 2019. In the meantime, Pallavi has developed into a confident young girl.



Project start: 2003

Locations: 27

Project partner: ABMSS, Bengaluru

Treatment spectrum:

★ ★ ★ (4 centers)

★ ★ (3 centers)

★ (20 locations)

Surgeries total, all years: 38,166

Surgeries 2022: 3,351

Funding 2022: 889,814.76 euros

A network of more than twenty treatment teams, spread across the entire country and organized by our partner organization ABMSS, based in Bengaluru, ensures that Indian cleft patients have access to high-quality medical care. In 2022, our teams offered comprehensive cleft care at four cleft centers. Comprehensive care refers to a comprehensive therapy concept in which the relevant specialist disciplines work hand in hand. This approach enables long-term care for the children: from their first surgery to speech therapy, orthodontic treatment and any follow-up surgeries that may be required later.

A special highlight in 2022: After a two-year break forced by the Coronavirus pandemic, the annual workshop that brings together all the Indian teams was held again for the first time.

BANGLADESH

A DEDICATED TEAM

In Bangladesh, some 6,000 babies are born with cleft lip and palate every year. In this populous country, more than 40 percent of the population live in extreme poverty. Especially in rural areas, the medical infrastructure is poor.

The need for help in Bangladesh is accordingly enormous. We are therefore particularly pleased with the successful progress of our advanced surgical training program launched in 2021. After two years of focused training, our young junior surgeons have become an integral part of the team. Highly motivated, Dr. Masfiquer Rahman and Dr. Shantona Rana support our five senior surgeons. In 2022, we were able to perform nearly 1,800 surgeries under the „Cleft Bangladesh“ umbrella. In the process, our teams deployed to around 20 hospitals across the country.

Educational work and patient search are also important components of our work in Bangladesh. Social workers go door to door in the villages to raise awareness of the free treatment available: Great commitment to the poorest of the poor.



Project start: 2010

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

Cooperation partner: Operation Cleft Australia (OCA), lead surgeons: Dr. Zaman, Dr. Siddiky, Dr. Chakraborty, Dr. Imran

Treatment spectrum: ★

Surgeries total, all years: 10,449

Surgeries 2022: 1,786

Funding 2022: 417,979.89 euros



First the lip surgery, then four months later the closure of the cleft palate: Mother and daughter can now beam with joy together!

PAKISTAN

EXEMPLARY
DEVELOPMENT

Established in 2013, Pakistan is one of our younger projects. The development of the project over the last nine years has been exemplary.



At work: our Pakistani speech therapists.

A crucial building block of our successful project in Pakistan is the cooperation with Prof. Muhammad Ashraf Ganatra and the Al-Mustafa Welfare Society, which has been ongoing since 2016. From the very beginning, Prof. Ganatra's vision was to offer his patients comprehensive help beyond the surgery. Under a three-year grant from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), we launched a project at the end of 2020 to establish an interdisciplinary cleft center in Karachi, where our project is based. The overarching goal is the social integration of the children treated. Under the umbrella of „Cleft Pakistan,“ Prof. Ganatra and his team offer all disciplines relevant to the treatment of cleft lip and palate: Surgery, pediatrics, speech therapy, psychosocial care, ENT, dentistry and orthodontics.



Project start: 2013

Project partner: Al-Mustafa Welfare Society,
Project lead: Prof. Muhammad Ashraf Ganatra

Treatment spectrum: ★★ ★

Surgeries total, all years: 6,501

Surgeries 2022: 1,397

Funding 2022: 471,702.19 euros



Pakistan is colorful: Our patients come from many different ethnic groups

VIETNAM

SUCCESSFUL
PARTNERSHIP

In Vietnam, we have been able to steadily increase the number of surgeries we are able to offer over the recent years despite pandemic-related restrictions. In 2022, we funded a total of 412 surgeries.

The success of our work in Vietnam is based primarily on our cooperation with the Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation (NCF) from Taiwan. 2016 marked the launch of this partnership with a first joint project in Ho Chi Minh City. In 2020, a second project location in Hanoi was added. In both the Odonto-Maxillo-Facial Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City and the National Children's Hospital in Hanoi, we support not only surgery but also further treatments such as ENT, speech therapy and NAM as a preoperative measure.

PD Dr. Dr. Denys Loeffelbein and PD Dr. Dr. Daniel Lonic attend to the two aid projects in the north and south of Vietnam as volunteers. In December 2022, the two were back on site for the first time after a pandemic-related break of three and a half years and operated as a team alongside their Vietnamese colleagues.



Project start: 2006

Project partner: 1) Center for Researching and Aiding Smile Operation (OSCA), Hanoi, Head: Dr. Ai

2) Odonto-Maxillo-Facial Hospital, Ho-Chi-Minh-Stadt, Head: Dr. Duong

3) Vietnam National Children's Hospital in Hanoi, Head: Dr. Lan

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

Treatment spectrum: ★★ ★

Surgeries total, all years: 4,287

Surgeries 2022: 412

Funding 2022: 150,420.82 euros



Just before the surgery:
Soon only pictures will be left to remind us of this little Vietnamese boy's cleft lip.

BOLIVIA

BROAD COVERAGE

In eight out of nine Bolivian provinces, we offer reliable help for children with cleft malformation. With four teams at three permanent locations, in La Paz, Cochabamba and Tarija, our aid effort in Bolivia stands on a stable foundation.

We were able to provide nearly 600 surgeries in 2022. Beyond surgery, comprehensive cleft therapy has a high priority in Bolivia. In La Paz and Cochabamba, our teams care for their patients with speech therapy and orthodontics. Psychologists accompany the families and strengthen the children's self-confidence. Some of the interdisciplinary teams also accompany aid missions into the surrounding areas. In this way, we can reach out to children who would otherwise have no chance of accessing this comprehensive range of therapies for their clefts.



Project start: 2010

Project partners: 1) Fundación Labio Leporino Amar y Sanar, Tarija, Head: Dr. Mario Villalba
2) Jiwaqui Bolivia, La Paz, Leitung: Dr. Adolfo Mamani

3) Fundación Ayninakuna, Cochabamba, Head: Dr. Eligio Rolanda Arcienega Llano

4) Sonrie Bolivia, La Paz, Leitung: Dr. Gonzalo Torrez

Treatment spectrum: ★★ ★

Surgeries total, all years: 3,656

Surgeries 2022: 579

Funding 2022: 283,222.91 euros



Finally, all is well: Quetsalli is three years old when she receives her cleft lip surgery.

PERU

MODERATE STABILIZATION

After two difficult years due to Corona and political unrest, we were happy to see a slight recovery in Peru in 2022, with twice as many cleft surgeries provided as in the previous year.

The pandemic had severely impacted our work in Peru. Surgery missions to rural hospitals outside our base in Lima were hardly possible anymore. This also affected other aid organizations. As a result, a backlog of unoperated cleft patients developed in Peru. Particularly in the remote Andean regions, many children are now awaiting their operation. In 2022, the hospitals finally started allocating capacities for cleft operations again. Our team, led by Dr. Alberto Bardales, sprang into action and was able to perform six cleft care missions outside Lima. The 136 surgeries provided during these missions are a great success in view of the still politically tense and unstable situation in the country.



Project start: 2006

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

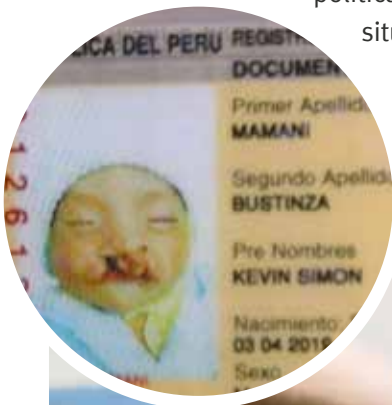
2) Dr. Mario Cornejo, Cusco

Treatment spectrum: ★ ★ ★

Surgeries total, all years: 4,890

Surgeries 2022: 137

Funding 2022: 105,669.80 euros



Kevin (see also picture on page 2) proudly shows his child ID card with his baby picture. When it was taken, his face was still disfigured by a large cleft lip.



AFGHANISTAN

COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE

The Taliban seizure of power in August 2021 was a decisive break for the country and its people. Most aid organizations had to suspend their work. Three of our four local surgeons are still in the country and try to continue to help the children, albeit in a severely limited scope.

Even in the pandemic year of 2021, our team had been able to provide 80 surgeries by the time the government fell in August. After the Taliban took power, the living situation of the people in Afghanistan changed significantly. Women and girls in particular have seen their freedom and rights massively restricted, and are no longer allowed to go to work or school. We are therefore particularly pleased that our female surgeon was active again in 2022. And a second surgeon also managed to continue his work for cleft children. A total of 18 surgeries in Afghanistan stand for great courage, and a little glimmer of new hope.



Project start: 2021

Project partner: Dr. Gustavo Herdócia

Cooperation partner: Deutsche Nicaplast-Gruppe e.V.

Treatment spectrum: ★

Surgeries total, all years: 10

Surgeries 2022: 8

Funding 2022: 8,747.18 euros



Project start: 2010

Project partners:

Due to the current situation in Afghanistan we do not publish the names of our partner surgeons.

Treatment spectrum: ★

Surgeries total, all years: 1,524

Surgeries 2022: 18

Funding 2022: 22,070.45 euros

NICARAGUA

EVERY CHILD COUNTS

In Nicaragua, Western aid organizations are not welcome either. Our work takes place more or less „under the radar“.

The future of our project in Nicaragua, which began in late 2021, is uncertain in view of the difficult political situation. A climate of fear prevails throughout the country. Increasing poverty is the sad result of the Ortega dictatorship. As always, the ones who suffer most are the children. Our surgeon was able to perform eight surgeries in 2022, but he is under constant observation by the government. Under these circumstances we are happy about every single child with cleft malformation that we can help in Nicaragua.

WE SAY „THANK YOU“ FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS

Our work for children with cleft is only possible thanks to our donors. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of them and highlight a few in particular here. We would also like to thank those who are no longer with us and who have included us in their wills. Thank you for your faith in our work!

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS



Austrian Cleft Kinderhilfe



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„Ein Herz für Kinder“



Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
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BMZ



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Operation Cleft Australia



Schweizer Hilfe für Spaltkinder



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für Lepra- und Notgebiete (HDZ)



WIR HELFEN KINDERN

Stiftung RTL – Wir helfen Kindern e.V.

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- MESTO Spritzenfabrik Ernst Stockburger GmbH
- TFM Service GmbH
- Change Sportswear GmbH & Co. KG
- botiss dental GmbH/botiss medical AG

INDIVIDUALS

- Kris und Tom Schneider
- Families Markus and Thomas Alber
- Dr. Andreas Raab
- The Marguerres, Heidelberg
- The Schweizers



A SEAL OF CONFIDENCE: Since 2012 (based on our 2010 annual financial statements) we have been awardees of the DZI Donation Seal for our responsible use of the donations entrusted to us. The seal is awarded by the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) based in Berlin.

READY FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS

More than 70,000 cleft surgeries have been provided in 20 years of Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe. From an initial figure of just over 1,000 surgeries in our first active year as an association in 2003, we have gradually expanded our aid effort. In the last two years, the teams in our project countries around the world have performed an average of some 7,000 operations per year. We want to at least maintain this level. **This results in an ambitious but realistic goal for the next ten years: to have provided another 70,000 surgeries by 2032. Our focus here is particularly on further developing our aid efforts in Pakistan and Bangladesh.** In Pakistan, we have succeeded in establishing a cleft center with interdisciplinary capabilities at our permanent location in Karachi. Our primary goals here are to provide patients outside Karachi with access to follow-up therapies and to expand the team by adding new surgeons. We also want to expand our offering of aid in Bangladesh beyond the surgeries. With the help of our experiences from India, we have launched a project to develop a speech therapy concept for Bangladesh. **We witnessed very difficult living conditions and an urgent need for help during our first aid missions in Ethiopia and Somalia.** The first two missions took place with indispensable support of teams from India and Bangladesh (see page 12). Our goal in the medium term is to build up at least one local team that can provide care autonomously. To this end, it is planned to train two young general surgeons from Ethiopia in Pakistan. **In Latin America, our focus country is Bolivia.** The further development of our activities to help cleft children in Peru, Colombia and Nicaragua depends on the political situation in these respective countries.

ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

In 2022, we sent out seven letters requesting donations to our existing donors. Other print media include the annual report and annual calendar, both of which we produce in small print runs. Our online communication is mainly based around our website and social

media. In the area of search engine advertising, we participate in Google's Grants program and benefit from a free advertising budget that Google provides to nonprofit organizations. We communicate general information about our work via an email newsletter every six to eight weeks on average. In 2022, we also remade our TV commercial, with Elias Danner as the film producer. In this context, we also created an image film, which we presented for the first time at our anniversary celebration, which also included a charity concert (see page 10). The event was funded by donations from our honorary board member Thomas Schneider. The TV spot will run pro bono within the RTL Media Group, as well as on the programming of the German state funded broadcaster Deutsche Welle. Development and implementation of our fundraising strategy is done in-house, as is conception and copywriting. We received external support from the following service providers: Graphic design › MSG-media Sebastian Schampera, Anja Schmidt Design. Printing and lettershop › Burger Druck GmbH, dataform dialogservices GmbH, website & Google Ad Grants support › Bulgan Molor-Erdene, online donation form › Altruja GmbH.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022

Income and expenses were balanced in 2022. Donation income was 3,142,276.34 euros, total expenses were 3,142,680.71 euros. The expenses for the fulfillment of our statutory purposes amounted to 2,594,224.02 euros (82.6% of all spending), the administrative expenses to 104,182.77 euros (3.3%), the expenses for advertising and public relations to 444,273.92 euros (14.1%). Asset management closed with a positive result of 26,693.59 euros, so that a total of 26,289.22 euros could be added to the category of donations not yet used. The 2022 financial statements will be audited by an auditing firm and published in a detailed version of the annual report on our website in October 2023.



Damaris' mother is happy: in the next few days, her daughter's cleft palate will be surgically closed as the first step in her cleft treatment. This will make it much easier for the little Bolivian girl to eat.



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BIC: BFSWDE33XXX

 **Deutsche Cleft
Kinderhilfe e.V.**



The German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) has audited our use of funds. To certify our responsible handling of the funds entrusted to us, Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe proudly bears the DZI donation seal.