



PAN-AFRICAN  
SURGICAL  
CONFERENCE

Operation  Smile

# BUILDING RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE SURGICAL SERVICES IN AFRICA

*A SURGEON IN EVERY DISTRICT HOSPITAL*

IMPACT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2025 - FEBRUARY 2026



PAN-AFRICAN  
SURGICAL  
CONFERENCE

Building Resilient and Sustainable  
Surgical Services in Africa:  
A Surgeon in Every District  
Hospital





*"The Pan-African Surgical Conference broadened my perspective on the global surgical ecosystem and the opportunities available. Learning how strong leadership, good governance and commitment have enabled other African countries to transform their surgical landscapes, I am convinced that similar progress is achievable in Malawi. I am now more determined than ever to support local efforts to replicate these successes and advance surgical care in our context."*

**- Dr. Nitta Chinyama Nayeja , Deputy Director - Clinical Practice, Ministry of Health Malawi**



# FROM PURPOSE TO PROGRESS

Globally, more than 5 billion people - over two-thirds of the world's population - lack access to safe, timely and affordable surgical care. Across Africa, this gap continues to affect health outcomes, economic stability and health system resilience, reinforcing the urgent need for solutions that extend beyond short-term interventions toward sustainable, locally led surgical systems. This impact report marks the one-year anniversary of the Pan-African Surgical Conference (PASC) and celebrates its connection to Operation 100, Operation Smile's commitment to expanding access to safe surgery through investments in specialized training, infrastructure and systems strengthening. Held from February 24–28, 2025 in Kigali, Rwanda, the conference hosted by Operation Smile in partnership with the Rwanda Ministry of Health, the Rwanda Surgical Society and the University of Rwanda convened 554 participants from 36 countries.

Since the conference, Operation Smile and its local and global partners have worked collaboratively to advance an ambitious global strategy focused on localizing surgical access. Together, these partners are addressing three persistent barriers to care: distance to services, limited health infrastructure and a critical shortage of trained surgical professionals. Guided by collaboration, innovation, advocacy and workforce development, these efforts reflect a shift from intention to action.

This report highlights the progress made over the past year while reinforcing a shared responsibility to continue building surgical systems that are resilient, inclusive and responsive to community needs across Africa.

*“The Pan-African Surgical Conference was an enriching and high-value professional experience. I strengthened my skills in two-stage bilateral cleft lip repair and improved my research and poster presentation techniques. I also enhanced my understanding of health system challenges and solutions, gaining model insights that are applicable to improving Madagascar's health system.”*

**- Dr Jacques Adrien Ramangason, Maxillofacial Surgeon from Madagascar**



# MESSAGE FROM PASC CO-CHAIRS

One year ago, the Pan-African Surgical Conference brought together leaders, clinicians, partners and advocates united by a shared purpose to strengthen surgical systems and expand access to safe care across Africa.

The conversations held in Kigali reflected both the urgency of the challenge and the power of collaboration to drive lasting change.

Since then, Operation Smile, together with governments, professional societies, academic institutions, private sector partners, volunteers and communities, has taken meaningful steps to translate purpose into progress.

Guided by Operation 100, our global commitment to localize surgical access through training, infrastructure and system strengthening, we continue to invest in solutions that are locally led and built to last.

This report reflects what is possible when collective action is matched with sustained commitment. While gaps in access to safe surgery remain, the progress documented here highlights the importance of partnership, innovation and shared accountability.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on advancing equitable surgical care and supporting health systems that serve communities today and for generations to come.

Regards,

Billy & Faustin

**“This report reflects what is possible when collective action is matched with sustained commitment.”**



Dr. Billy Magee, MD, DDS



Prof. Faustin Ntirenganya,  
MD, MMED, FCS(Ecsa), DIU, DU, FACS, PhD

# ORGANIZERS



Republic of Rwanda  
Ministry of Health

## Rwanda Ministry of Health

The governing body overseeing and coordinating Rwanda's health sector focusing on preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care. MOH aims to enhance the overall well-being of citizens while contributing to poverty reduction.



UNIVERSITY of  
RWANDA

## University of Rwanda

Rwanda's prominent public university providing quality education, conducting research and boosting the socio-economic development. UR College of Medicine and Health Sciences (UR-CMHS) trains medical and health professionals.

## Operation Smile

### Operation Smile

Operation Smile is a leading global nonprofit bridging the gap in access to essential surgeries and health care, starting with cleft surgery and comprehensive care.



## Rwanda Surgical Society

Rwanda Surgical Society is a constituent of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) committed to the welfare and education of surgeons and advocacy among surgeons in Rwanda.

## Partners



# SPONSORS

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Skin Transplantation Technology



**GLOBAL  
SURGERY  
AMSTERDAM**



# PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING LANCET COMMISSION 2030 TARGETS

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND OTHER LMICS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LAGGING IN THE THREE INDICATORS ASSESSED



## Indicator 1:

Access to timely essential surgery



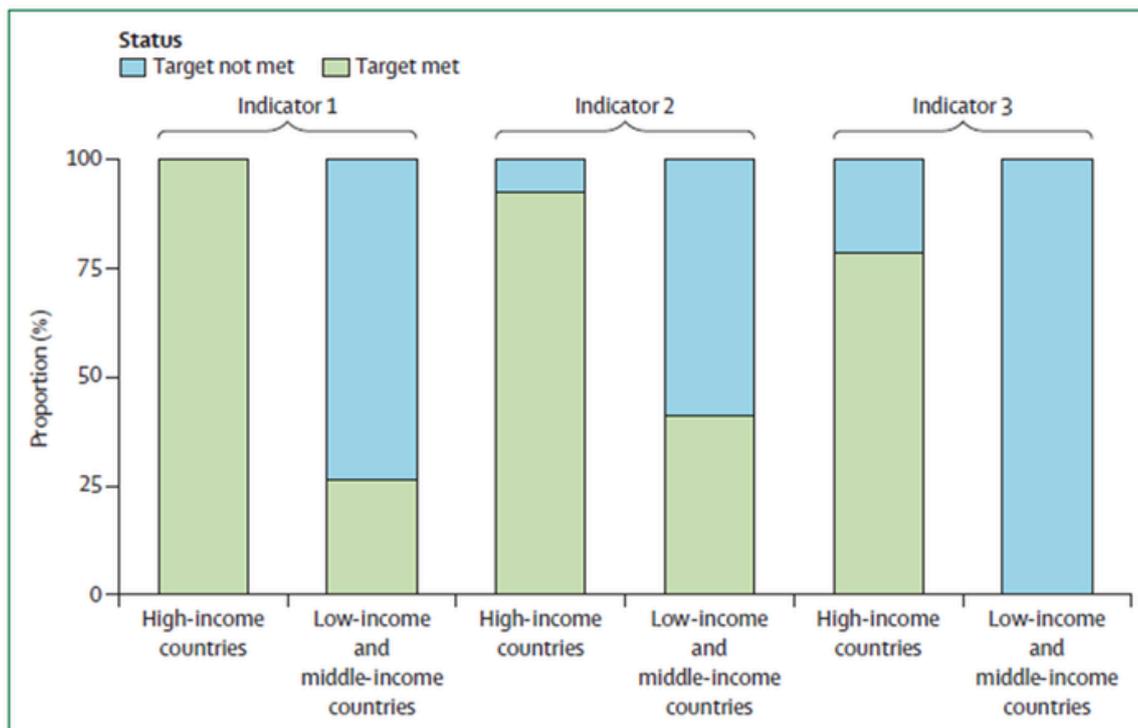
## Indicator 2:

Specialist Surgical Workforce



## Indicator 3:

Surgical Volume

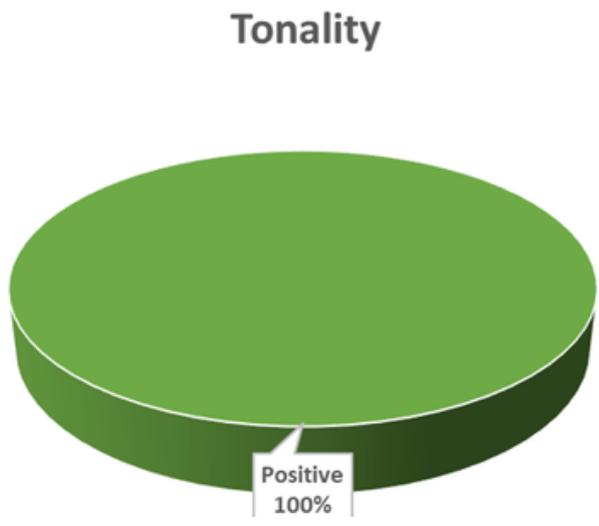
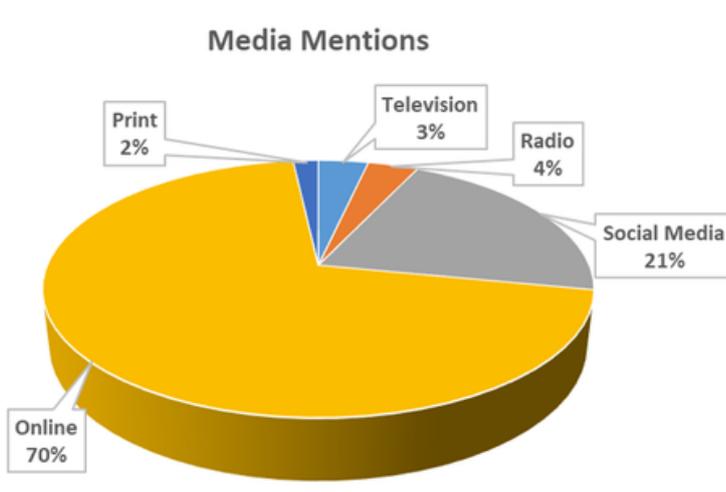


# CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

- Opened on **24 February 2025** with remarks from the Organizing Committee Chair and Rwanda's Minister of Health.
- **Pre-conference workshops** held from 19–23 February 2025, provided hands-on training for operative team members, including surgeons, anesthetists, nurses, intensivists, pediatricians and generalists via lectures, simulations, and practical sessions.
- Fifteen keynotes included: **Dr. Hanna Getachew: Pediatric surgery leader (COSECSA)**, on training scalability, **Prof. Salome Maswime: Head, Global Surgery Division, University of Cape Town**, on systemic resilience. **Prof. Kathryn Chu: Director, Centre of Global Surgery**, on cost-effective solutions. **Prof. Afua A. J. Hesse: Pediatric surgeon**, on educational strategies. **Dr. Fetiya Awol Abbagidi: Women in Medicine advocate**, on gender equity. **Prof. Abebe Bekele: Dean, UGHE**, on research-policy synergy. **Prof. Julien K. Gashegu: Anatomy Chair, University of Rwanda**, on foundational training. **Prof. Peter Ntumba: Head and Program Director of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, AIC Kijabe Hospital**, on rural care. **Emile Rwamasirabo: Former King Faisal Hospital CEO**, on Rwanda's healthcare journey. **Dr. Amanda Gosman: Chief of Plastic Surgery, UC San Diego**, on craniofacial advancements. **Dr. Menelas Nkeshimana: Rwanda Ministry of Health**, on workforce policy. **Dr. King Kayondo: IRCAD Africa President**, on technological innovation. These leaders, alongside panelists like **Dr. Glory Sibongile Dlamini** and **Prof. Bruce Biccard**, enriched discussions across all five days.
- **60** abstracts were selected for oral delivery, reflecting high-quality, actionable research. **52** abstracts were approved for poster presentations, offering visual and interactive engagement opportunities. A panel of experts, including co-chairs Dr. Billy Magee, Alice Umutoni and Prof. Faustin Ntirenganya, evaluated submissions based on originality, relevance, and impact.
- **Ten** workshops trained attendees in laparoscopic surgery, anesthesia, and rural care, while panels with Operation Smile and policymakers pushed for sustainable financing models, emphasizing public-private partnerships.
- **Attendees: Geographic Breakdown/Key Affiliates**
  - Rwanda: 354 (54%) – Predominantly University of Rwanda (UR) students and professionals.
  - Other African Countries: 181 (28%) – Including Ethiopia (43), South Africa (25), Kenya (23), Tanzania (18), Madagascar (17), Malawi (12), Ghana (11), Uganda (9), Namibia (5), Mozambique (4), Zambia (4), Zimbabwe (3), Botswana (2), Togo (1), Seychelles (1), Burundi (1), Sudan (1).
  - International (Non-African): 120 (18%) – United States (66), United Kingdom (13), Sweden (12), Ireland (1), India (1), Peru (1), Nicaragua (1), Honduras (1), Argentina (1).
  - COSECSA: 14 (2%) – Regional surgical training body.
  - Ministries of Health: 25 (4%) – Including Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique, Seychelles, Ethiopia and Ghana.

# MEDIA EXPOSURE

Quantity: 57 stories:  
 Online and Print - 41 stories  
 TV and Radio - 4 Stories



NEWS SOUTH AFRICA  
**Addressing the surgical care shortage in Africa: insights from the Pan-African Surgical Conference**

Siyabonga Sithole | Published 1 year ago  
 Facebook X LinkedIn WhatsApp Telegram Print 2min



The New Times  
 Thursday, March 04, 2025  
**Bringing safe surgical care closer to home, in Africa and beyond**



**Pan-African Surgical Conference kicks off in Kigali**  
 HEALTH |



# OPERATION 100 PRIORITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

01

Training multi-disciplinary cleft teams at hubs and spokes

02

Enhancing infrastructure and equipment for provision of safe and high-quality surgical care

03

Strengthen supply chain system to ensure availability of essential supplies and commodities

04

Contribute to improvement of surgical care access by aligning with national strategic and perioperative plans

05

Establish an effective M&E framework to measure the impact of Operation 100 in the SSA region

Contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations:



# SSA PROGRAM TRAINING MILESTONES



The Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) Series is a training initiative aimed at building cleft care skills across selected countries in the region. It brings together local healthcare providers to develop independent, multidisciplinary cleft care teams, strengthen health systems and improve access to safe, high-quality care.

In 2025, the SSA Series ran three surgical training programs in Ghana, Malawi, and Madagascar, reaching health providers from five countries, including DRC, Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar and Ghana. The programs offered 86 structured training opportunities and supported 164 surgeries, helping trainees move toward professional independence.

By improving skills, standardizing care and building local teams, it strengthens the overall cleft care system in the region.

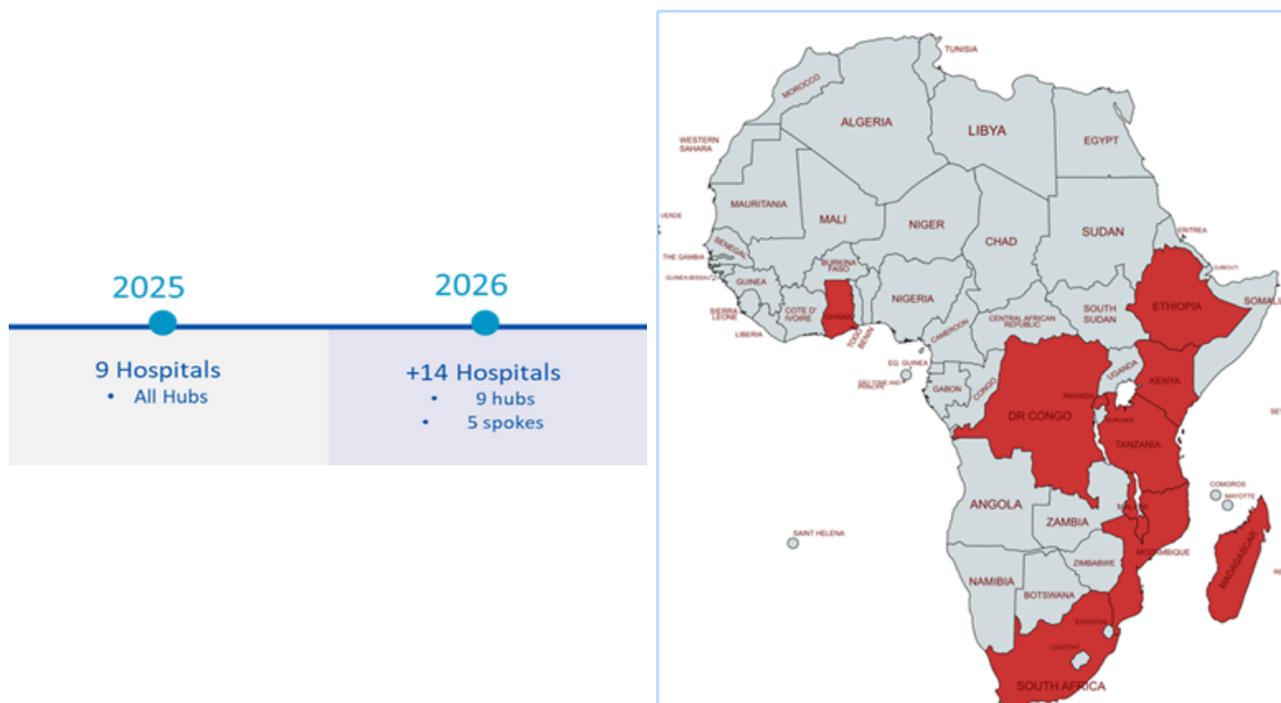
262 providers are currently in training, 36 have completed their pathways, and 48 have received their first recommendation.



# PLANNED NETWORK EXPANSION & TEAM READINESS (2025-2030)

Operation Smile's Hub & Spoke model connects teaching hospitals (Hubs) with District or Provincial Hospitals (Spokes) to build capacity. In partnership with various local organizations, the Hub represents the center of specialized care and advanced training.

With increased skills and renovated surgical environments, more and safer care is provided at the Spokes, which are enabled to provide routine surgical and cleft care.



From 2025 to 2030, the network is set to expand steadily, growing from 9 hospitals in 2025 to a total of 51 hospitals across hubs and spokes in Africa.

Team readiness is progressing in parallel: of the 33 hospitals planned to go live in the next three years, 19 teams are already fully identified and trained. 11 teams have core specialties identified and are progressing through training, leaving only 3 teams yet to be identified.



6-year-old Chris is one of many patients benefiting from expanded access to surgical care.

# SUCCESS STORIES

OS RWANDA INVESTMENT BRINGS JOY TO THOUSANDS OF LIVES



## HOSPITAL INVESTMENTS

Operation Smile's investments are expanding access to surgical care across Rwanda, including in Ruhengeri and Gisenyi, where demand for reconstructive services remains high. At district hospitals such as Rwinkwavu, patients seek care for cleft conditions, burn injuries, trauma and post-cancer reconstruction services that were previously limited to a small number of referral facilities.

Chris Joy, a 6-year-old from Gisenyi, is one of many patients benefiting from this expanded access. After sustaining severe burn injuries as an infant, he required multiple surgeries over several years, often involving long and costly travel to Kigali. Through Operation Smile-supported programs and district hospital investments, Chris Joy has received ongoing surgical care closer to home, including reconstructive procedures and access to prosthetic services, helping him move toward greater mobility and independence.

Since OS's investment in the country, Rwanda has increased the number of plastic surgeons from 2 to 6 with additional surgeons currently in training in partnership with COSECSA.

## DENTAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In December, Operation Smile concluded the Rwanda Dental Exchange Program in Kigali, a partnership between the University of Rwanda, the University of Maryland in the United States to provide dental care and training. Faculty and residents from the University of Maryland joined students and faculty in Rwanda to deliver comprehensive screenings, treatment plans and a range of preventive and restorative dental care for patients with operated and unoperated cleft conditions, helping to improve overall oral health and quality of life.

Alongside this clinical care, oral health education was an integral part of the program. Students and Operation Smile Rwanda volunteers led sessions for patients and caregivers on daily care and disease prevention, with every patient receiving an oral hygiene toolkit to support healthy habits at home. Strengthening local dental capacity was also a key focus. Visiting clinicians from Maryland worked closely with Rwanda's dental students through hands-on learning and lectures attended by more than 120 students, faculty and members of the dental community, covering cleft dental care and best practices.

Thank you to generous sponsors Henry Schein, PDT, Inc., 3M and Ultradent Products, Inc.



# SUCCESS STORIES



## OS ETHIOPIA LAUNCHES AYDER CLEFT CARE CENTER

Operation Smile, alongside the Federal Ministry of Health, the Tigray Regional Health Bureau and Ayder Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, launched the newly renovated Ayder Cleft Care Center. The upgraded center features three fully equipped operating rooms, dedicated recovery and inpatient wards, expanded medical storage, and integrated cleft services including nutrition, speech therapy, dental care and psychosocial support. It is projected to provide 480 cleft surgeries, 480 general plastic surgeries, and treat more than 400 burn patients annually.



## MOZAMBIQUE'S FIRST SURGICAL PROGRAM

In February 2026, Operation Smile Mozambique conducted its first short-term surgical program (STSP) since 2019 at Nampula Central Hospital. The program was highly hands-on, combining clinical service delivery with on-site mentoring that enabled local healthcare professionals to gain meaningful, real-world experience. Local and international educators worked side-by-side with hospital teams, embedding learning throughout the program. In total, 12 international educators representing multiple disciplines across the full cleft care pathway participated, ensuring education was integrated at every stage of treatment.



## STUDENTS PROGRAMS IN AFRICA

Operation Smile believes in cultivating the next generation of compassionate, committed and action-oriented leaders through Student Programs and fellowships like the Global Surgery Fellows and Global Surgery Advocacy Fellows. In July 2025, 26 students from across Africa participated in the annual OS International Student Leadership Conference (ISLC), sponsored by Align Technology, Inc. Rwanda, Madagascar, and Malawi, with Kenya soon to join, also hosted local Uleads - student workshops to empower students to share insights on leadership, nutrition, and the psychosocial impact of surgery, etc



## WOMEN IN MEDICINE (WIM) EVENT IN MADAGASCAR

In December 2025, Operation Smile Madagascar hosted their first-ever Women in Medicine (WIM) event, bringing together more than 100 women. The gathering created a space to celebrate leadership, share inspiring career journeys and encourage dialogue about the future of women in healthcare in the country. The event featured a panel discussion led by women leaders who shared their career journeys, challenges and achievements. Participants also engaged in a variety of interactive activities, networking sessions and open conversations.

# SUCCESS STORIES



## A MILESTONE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY

Operation Smile is proud to announce a major advocacy milestone: the inclusion of comprehensive language on surgery, obstetrics, trauma, and anaesthesia in the C20 Education and Health Africa (EHA) Policy Pack. Though reflected in a single sentence, this achievement follows sustained advocacy and strategic negotiation to elevate surgical care at the highest policy levels. This milestone affirms surgical care as a core pillar of global health and development, advancing equity, resilience and universal health coverage.



## REGIONAL NURSES TRAINING HOSTED IN KENYA

In April 2025, 54 nurses from across Sub-Saharan Africa gathered in Nairobi, Kenya for Operation Smile's Nurse Development Training. The program focused on leadership, safe surgical care, emergency response and teamwork.

Through interactive sessions and hands-on simulations, nurses strengthened clinical skills and shared strategies to improve care across diverse healthcare settings. Thank you to our partner, Johnson & Johnson.



## KENYA'S NATIONAL SURGICAL STRATEGIC PLAN

Operation Smile is collaborating with the Kenya Ministry of Health, the Kenya Surgical Society, and others to develop Kenya's first National Surgical Strategic Plan (2026–2030), expanding access to safe, affordable and timely surgical, obstetric, trauma and anesthesia care. Following the formation of technical working groups in June 2024, the process is now in stakeholder consultation and expert review, with national launch planned for March 2026, marking a major step toward a sustainable and inclusive surgical system in Kenya.



## COMPREHENSIVE CARE IN SOUTH AFRICA

In March 2025, OS launched its SSA Comprehensive Care Training in Cape Town, uniting 104 cleft care providers from nine countries. Focused on holistic care, the training fostered skills, connection and a continent-wide movement to expand access.

Participants, including experts in nutrition, speech therapy, psychosocial support, oral health and program management, left empowered and connected.

# COMPLETED AND UPCOMING TRAINING

	Training Type	When and Where	Trainee #s
Nursing	Nurse Leadership Training	Kenya, April 2025	54
	Nurse Leadership Training	Kenya, April 2026	75 (projected)
	Clinical Coordinator Training	Kenya, January – February 2026	35
Anesthesia	WFSA Safe Peds / Safe Cleft	Tanzania, January 2025	32
Biomed	WFSA Safe Peds / Safe Cleft	Tanzania, January 2026	40
Pediatrics	Biomed Training	Rwanda, November 2025	20
	Pediatrician Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment	Madagascar, December 2025	40
Women in Medicine	Women in Medicine Leadership Fellowship Pilot	Ethiopia, February-August 2025	16
	Women in Medicine Leadership Fellowship	DRC, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania: January – September 2026	26



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Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana, Rwanda's Minister of Health engaging the participants at the Pan-African Surgical Conference

# SUCCESS STORIES



## GHANA'S SURGICAL DIALOGUE

Following the launch of Ghana's National Surgical, Obstetric and Anesthesia Plan (NSOAP) in September 2024, the Ministry of Health convened the first Ghana Surgical Dialogue in August 2025 with support from Operation Smile, Mercy Ships, and cross-sector stakeholders.

The Dialogue brought together clinicians, academics, and the Ministry of Finance to identify systemic bottlenecks in Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anesthesia (SOTA) care. It resulted in a prioritized roadmap aligned with NSOAP goals to strengthen service delivery, financing, and system integration. OS continues to support the NSOAP Steering Committee with technical and implementation assistance to advance measurable improvements in surgical care access and outcomes across Ghana.



## COSECSA'S 25TH CONFERENCE IN BURUNDI

Eight OS trainees graduated at COSECSA's Scientific Conference in Burundi, including our regional director in SSA, Dr Augustino Hellar. Dr Eyerusalem Bergene Banti, a participant in the OS's Women in Medicine (WIM) Leadership Fellowship, achieved best in neurosurgery. Their work will help expand access to surgical care.



## DEVELOPMENT OF RWANDA PERIOPERATIVE HEALTHCARE STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030.

Operation Smile partnered with the Ministry of Health of Rwanda, the Rwandan Surgical Society, the Rwanda Society of Anaesthesia and Critical Care and the University of Global Health Equity to develop the Perioperative Healthcare Strategic Plan, informed by a review of the 2018–2024 NSOAP.

The plan outlines a national roadmap to strengthen surgical, anaesthesia, critical, and emergency care in alignment with broader health system priorities. Following technical validation and stakeholder review, it is pending final Ministry of Health approval for official launch.



## OS-WFSA SAFE PAEDIATRICS REGIONAL TRAINING

The OS-WFSA SAFE Paediatrics Regional Training was held in January 2026 in Tanzania. Twenty-eight anesthesia providers from across the SSA region attended.

The group included anesthesiologists, anesthesia residents and CRNAs from DRC, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Malawi, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, and Rwanda.

# SUCCESS STORIES



## THE PAN-AFRICAN SURGICAL HEALTH FORUM (PASHEF)

In November 2025, OS's Health Policy and Advocacy team was invited by the PASHeF Secretariat and the Ethiopian Ministry of Health to the Pan-African Surgical Health Forum (PASHEF) in Addis Ababa, an annual gathering of African health ministers and stakeholders to advance advocacy and coordinated action on surgical care. Operation Smile was honoured to participate and is pursuing a partnership with PASHEF to strengthen surgical, obstetric, trauma, and anaesthesia (SOTA) care and support sustainable, continent-wide progress.



## NEW HORIZONS FOR OPERATION SMILE IN AFRICA

Operation Smile has formally applied for non-state actor status with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO-AFRO), a strategic step that will enable the organization to engage more directly in regional health policy dialogue and technical consultations across Africa. Operation Smile is seeking such status to contribute to priority discussions and planning on surgical care, universal health coverage, and health-system strengthening across the continent.



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE NSOAP IN MOZAMBIQUE

In support of the Ministry of Health of Mozambique, a multi-specialty working group is leading the development of the country's inaugural National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anaesthesia Plan (NSOAP). This effort brings together experts across disciplines to ensure a comprehensive and locally driven approach to strengthening surgical systems.

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and Operation Smile are supporting this process by providing technical expertise, resources and partnership, helping identify key priorities for this landmark initiative.



## GLOBAL SURGERY ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP

The Global Surgery Advocacy Fellowship and Certificate Programme launched last August, bringing together 29 participants from 16+ low- and middle-income countries for a week of in-person training at the University of Global Health Equity's Butaro campus.

The 2025 fellows are tackling diverse issues, from expanding surgical access in Rwanda and Ecuador, to supporting female surgeons in Kenya, improving newborn care in Malawi and introducing laparoscopic surgery in Ethiopia.

# FROM OS SSA REGIONAL LEADERS

“The Pan-African Surgical Conference convened some of the most influential stakeholders and leaders in health to deliberate on the existing and future needs of our communities. From policymakers, surgeons and other health medical professionals, private and public organisations and academia; it was a powerful reflection of the commitment these leaders share toward advancing the future of health across the continent.”

- *Mich Rakotomalala, Senior Manager, Global Programs and PASC organising lead.*



“One year after the PASC conference, we see that the conference catalysed an unprecedented momentum in strengthening Africa’s surgical workforce including intensified investments in training, mentorship and infrastructure, fully aligned with Operation 100 and fulfilling the commitment made by Operation Smile leadership to support African-led surgical capacity building. This momentum is rapidly translating into stronger district-level surgical teams and improved access to safe care.”

- *Dr. Augustino Hellar, OS Regional Director for Rwanda, Ghana and Tanzania*



“Our partners across the region increasingly see Operation Smile as a trusted leader in expanding access to safe, high-quality surgical care for underserved communities. This growing confidence creates a powerful opportunity for us to help shape Africa’s surgical agenda, working hand in hand with governments, professional institutions, and key stakeholders to build sustainable, locally-led solutions”.

- *Abiy Semunigus Dejene, OS Regional Director for Ethiopia and Mozambique*



“The Pan-African Surgical Conference was a powerful call to action in response to Africa’s looming surgical workforce crisis projected by the World Health Organization. Bringing together delegates from 35 countries, the conference demonstrated both the urgency of the challenge and the strength of continental collaboration. It showcased academic exchange and a promising student pipeline, reinforcing a shared commitment to equitable, sustainable surgical care across Africa.”

- *Mamy Ramamonjisoa, OS Regional Director for Madagascar and South Africa*



“The Pan-African Surgical Conference accelerated momentum across the region by convening leaders in global surgery to share their expertise and help translate Operation Smile’s Operation 100 strategy into coordinated, collective action. Since the PASC, we have seen meaningful growth in local and regional partnerships, stronger engagement from clinical educators, closer collaboration with hospital partners, governments and training institutions, and a renewed commitment to building a locally led, sustainable surgical workforce to meet the long-term needs of communities across the continent.”

- *Claire Dickson, OS Regional Director for Malawi and Kenya*



“A year on from the inaugural Pan-African Surgical Conference, what stands out is how leaders have continued to work together, across countries, institutions and sectors to push forward shared priorities. Through closer collaboration with in-country leaders and organisations, we strive to advance needed policy changes and strengthen our collective advocacy to ensure essential surgical services are recognised, resourced and delivered as a core part of health systems across the continent.”

- *Irene Dzirasa, OS Policy and Advocacy SSA Regional Lead*



# CONCLUSION

The Pan-African Surgical Conference began with a clear purpose: to strengthen surgical systems and expand access to safe care across Africa through collaboration and shared leadership. One year on, the progress reflected in this report demonstrates what is possible when that purpose is matched with sustained commitment, strong partnerships and collective action.

From governments and health professionals to advocates, private sector partners, volunteers and funders, progress has been shaped by those working together across disciplines and borders. Each step forward, whether in training, infrastructure, policy alignment, or advocacy, reflects a growing movement toward surgical systems that are locally led, resilient and built to last.

**Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to strengthening health systems in Africa.**



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