



***Our Journey to a  
Sustainable Model for  
Comprehensive Cleft Care:  
An Evolving 35 Year Experience***





# What is Cleft Lip & Cleft Palate?

- A **cleft lip** is an opening in the upper lip
  - Can be on one-side or both sides
  - It may extend to the nose
- A **cleft palate** is an opening in the roof of the mouth
- **Cleft is one of the most common congenital birth defects in the world**
  - Incidence is estimated at 250,000/year in developing countries
  - **1/500-700 births** are affected with CL/P
- If not treated in a timely and adequate fashion
  - ➔ increased risk of morbidity



# Psychosocial Impact of Cleft on Child, Family, & Society

## Later, as adults...

- Cannot find *work, marry, or adequately integrate into society*
- Unable to contribute to community
- Creates feelings of low self-worth and loneliness



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***Masks Have Been in Use Much  
Longer Than COVID-19 Epidemic  
To Hide Their Clefts due to Social  
Stigmatization***





***Imagine Living All Your Life  
like This.....***





# Augmented Reality: Innovative Learning Technique Proctoring Surgeons Remotely



# GSF Sustainability Road Map





# Educational & Economic Impacts



Impact of CCCW on patient care is far-reaching

## Individual Impact:

*1 CCCW attendee x 200 patients/year x 20 years = 4,000 patients*

## Collective 2021 Workshop Impact:

*489 CCCW attendees registered x 4,000 patients = 1,956,000 patients*



Smile  
Foundation

Evolving 35-Year Journey





Outreach Cleft Programs  
since 1987

# Outreach Cleft Programs

Peru 2003



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Trujillo, Peru

LA LIBERTAD



Guayaquil, Ecuador







Ecuador  
Ecuador

Peru  
Peru

El Salvador  
El Salvador

Mexico  
Mexico

Nigeria  
Nigeria

Ghana  
Ghana

Senegal  
Senegal

Sierra Leone  
Sierra Leone

Liberia  
Liberia

Lebanon  
Lebanon

# Global Smile Foundation Outreach Program Sites

# Prenatal Care



## Feeding and Nutrition



Feeding education & orientation is important for parents to ensure that their child feeds successfully in order to thrive

## Psychosocial support





# Dental & Orthodontics





**Surgical Team**

**World-renowned surgical techniques and optimal surgical care**

## Speech education & Follow-up



Educational videos  
such as speech  
therapy sessions with  
guided exercises

Counseling  
new patients, with  
feeding and nutritional  
assessment

## Telehealth

Promoting  
connectivity with  
our teams in  
LMICs

Guiding patients'  
families on pre-  
surgical orthopedics &  
taping

Follow-up on patients  
and communicate  
with their legal  
guardians

Psychosocial  
support, through  
community-based  
initiatives

Health-related videos,  
such as proper hygiene  
and COVID-19  
precautions

**Our patients**







2-year follow-up



**Mayra**

2015-2018





Global  
**Smile**  
Foundation







Global  
**Smile**  
Foundation



Diabetes  
**Smile**  
Foundation.





Oral  
**Smile**  
Foundation



Little  
**Smile**  
Foundation





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Foundation







Global  
**Smile**  
Foundation





From GSF Patients to GSF Volunteers  
1992 - 2022



**Diego**

1996 - 2022



Smile

**Freddy**

1997 - 2020





**Eliana**

1991 - 2023





**A healthy smile is  
just the beginning**

