



Worldwide aid for cleft children

Annual report 2018



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A picture of gratitude: Shiwani (with cuddly toy on her mother's lap) after surgery and surrounded by family and village community

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Shadia from Burundi, before 1st and shortly after 2nd operation

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Dear friends and supporters,

2018 was a successful and at the same time eventful year for the Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe. For the first time the total number of operations went over the 5,000-mark! In comparison with the previous year that meant an increase of 18 percent. Three countries lead the tables of success: India with 2,431, Pakistan with 847 and Bangladesh with 761 operations.

Apart from these high numbers I am especially pleased that we are able to advance our concept of comprehensive care in a steady and consistent manner. For example in Bolivia, where Dr Adolfo Mamani - one of our two Bolivian surgeons - is actively engaged in setting up a cleft centre. In October of last year I visited the project, which was founded in 2015, together with my friend and fellow board of trustees member Prof Dr Götz Ehmann. Using our combined expertise as anaesthetist and maxillo-facial surgeon we were satisfied with the positive development and high quality of medical care provided locally.

The fate of ten-year-old Dat from Vietnam, whose story captivated our team towards the end of 2018, proves how important qualified treatment is. As a baby, Dat became the victim of an unregulated surgical mission and fell into the hands of unqualified doctors. What dramatic consequences that had on the boy's life, and how we managed to help him is told on page 8.

I was also very touched by the story of the Indian twin girls Lishita and Lithika. After mentioning them in one of our newsletters we received an amazing feedback of great compassion, many of you wanted to help. So far the surgery still hasn't gone ahead, as the babies have not yet gained enough weight and complications keep arising. The girls are closely monitored by our team of Indian doctors and I sincerely hope that their condition will improve soon. These are just three examples from many cases of children struck by fate who we care for year after year. I am always grateful when we can guide them towards a positive outcome – thanks to your support and your donations. I would like to thank you most sincerely for standing up for "our" cleft children.

Yours faithfully,

Frank Feyerherd

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



WORLDWIDE AID FOR CLEFT

5,088 operations in 12 countries (in Xi'an/China we only sponsor speech therapy). The nature and level of our support is matched with the various structures that we come across in our project countries. In India our 22 locations and six cleft centres allow us to offer a comprehensive interdisciplinary care regime, while in East Africa we are grateful for every single child who can undergo surgery.

Operations per year 2010 – 2018

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 2010 | 3,520 |
| 2011 | 3,492 |
| 2012 | 3,654 |
| 2013 | 4,012 |
| 2014 | 4,010 |
| 2015 | 3,238 |
| 2016 | 4,225 |
| 2017 | 4,289 |
| 2018 | 5,088 |
| TOTAL | 35,528 |

Operations per country 2010 – 2018

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| India | 18,942 |
| Bangladesh | 4,093 |
| Peru | 3,016 |
| Vietnam | 2,213 |
| Pakistan | 2,761 |
| Bolivia | 1,711 |
| Afghanistan | 1,192 |
| Cameroon | 543 |
| The Philippines | 365 |
| East Africa | 294 |
| Tajikistan | 212 |
| Indonesia | 186 |
| TOTAL | 35,528 |



Shazaib



Aracelly



Sheila

PERU

BOLIVIA

LEFT CHILDREN – SINCE 2002



ORGANISATION

The Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe e.V., based in the German city of Freiburg, is committed to the worldwide comprehensive care of patients - predominately children - with cleft lip and palates. We finance the operations and aftercare of those patients, or their families, who cannot afford the treatment costs themselves.

Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe e.V., Freiburg

Executive board: Prof Dr med Frank Feyerherd (in a voluntary capacity) Thomas Schneider (in a voluntary capacity), Alexander Gross

Managing director: Alexander Gross (hauptamtlich)

Board of directors (in voluntary capacities): Dr Dr Oliver Blume, Ute Henninger-Sehling, Dr Christian Rüschi; *role: advising the executive board, auditing the annual budgetary constraints*

Board of trustees (in a voluntary capacity): Prof Dr Dr Jürgen Dieckmann, oral and maxillofacial surgeon; Prof Dr Dr Götz Ehmann, oral and maxillofacial surgeon; Gunther Au-Balbach, oral and maxillofacial surgeon; Dr Jos van den Hoek, maxillofacial orthopaedist; *role: expert committee with several years of experience on cleft lip and palates.*

Heads of project on the part of

India, The Philippines: Dr Dushyant Prasad · *Vietnam:* Dr Daniel Lonic, Dr Dushyant Prasad · *Afghanistan, Pakistan:* Dr Ulrike Lamlé · *Bangladesh, Indonesia:* Dr Ulrike Lamlé, Dr Dushyant Prasad · *Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania:* Gunther Au-Balbach, Dr Dr Oliver Blume · *Peru, Bolivia:* Dr Ulrike Lamlé, Sylvia Luedtke-Haas
Tajikistan: Dr Martin Kam

EXCERPT FROM THE STATUTE

The statutory purpose is realised especially through the following measures:

- > implementation and support of medical aid projects for the treatment of patients with cleft lip and palates [...] in close cooperation with local doctors and therapists,
- > implementation and support of measures to improve the knowledge level of the population,
- > implementation and support of training and further educational measures [...],
- > specialist, organisational and financial support for the setting up of suitable technical infrastructure [...]
- > funding the costs for free or low-cost treatment of needy patients with cleft lip and palates [...] along with the aftercare, especially of children and adolescents,
- > intensifying public interest about the work on and with cleft patients [...]

PARTNER ASSOCIATIONS

> **Schweizer Hilfe für Spaltkinder:** our Swiss partner association, based in Therwil, is run on a voluntary basis and finances the costs of treatments in our Indian cleft centre in Patna. **Chairperson:** Dr. Jos van den Hoek

> **Akila Bharatha Mahila Seva Samaja (ABMSS):** our Bangalore-based Indian partner association, responsible for the coordination of our cleft centres and projects in India. This includes educational work, the search for children in rural areas, further training of doctors and therapists. In addition, ABMSS is successfully engaged in fundraising activities.

Chairperson: Mrs Lakshmi Anand Rao · **Vice president:** Dr Ashish Shetty · **Treasurer:** Mr Ajay Kumar · **Secretary general:** Dr Dushyant Prasad · **Further members:** Mr Ameet Mirpuri · Dr Chytra V. Anand · Mr Mahesh Shandilya



A COMPREHENSIVE **APPROACH**

Our aid for cleft children begins even before the operation. An essential part of our work in the project countries lies in educating the population and, relating thereto, searching for patients.

Social workers visit schools, public spaces, go from house to house to call attention to the fact that cleft children can be helped - and that the treatment is free. The affected families are then informed about the surgical procedure and receive support. The children are often malnourished and need special food in order to achieve the weight that is ne-

cessary before the operation can take place. In some cases treatment with a palatal plate may occur. The surgical procedures themselves necessitate proper training, on top of that, anaesthesia plays an important role where children are concerned. Wherever the structures in our project countries allow it, we strive to provide necessary aftercare measures such as orthodontic treatment and speech therapy following the surgical procedure itself. Our aim is to help as many cleft children as possible to have access to comprehensive care. **An interdisciplinary treatment concept for optimal therapeutic success.**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTAL AID INSTEAD OF UNREGULATED SURGERY



How important the development of local medical quality standards is can be seen in the story of ten-year-old Dat from Vietnam. As a baby he was the victim of an unregulated surgical mission and fell into the hands of unqualified doctors. In the course of the improperly conducted operation the veins in his palate were severed. As a result, he developed a 4x5cm fistula. The hole in his palate meant a life with considerable constraints. Up until his tenth birthday he could neither eat, drink nor speak properly and had almost no friends.



Dat met Dr Daniel Lonic and Dr Dr Denys Loeffelbein in March 2018 after years of suffering. Daniel Lonic is the voluntary manager of the project in Ho-Chi-Minh-City, both doctors are on site once a year. Back home in Munich they treat patients in the Helios Klinikum München West: Daniel Lonic is the head of the department for plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery, Denys Loeffelbein is senior consultant of the oral and maxillofacial department.



SURGICAL SAFARIS AND THEIR EFFECTS

Some local and foreign teams of doctors can be found throughout the world on "Surgical Safaris", as they are often critically referred to in specialist medical circles. Aside from providing aid it's about prestige, adventure and also about gathering experience. And it is not always doctors with the necessary qualifications that are in the field. The affected patients, often from the most impoverished conditions, are sometimes even offered money to "incentivise" them towards the procedure. Aftercare is rarely provided and the patients don't have the chance for follow-on treatment as the operating campaigns are not bound into the medical structures that are available in the area.



Dat's case is so severe that help for the boy in Vietnam itself is out of the question. We therefore decided - with active support from the Helios Klinikum München West - to have Daniel Lonic and Denys Loeffelbein operate on him in Germany. In two operations the experienced surgeons reconstructed the base of his nose as well as his palate using graft material from his own body. Both procedures were successful - which means a new start to life for Dat. Food will not run out of his nose any more, as the opening between nose and mouth is now closed. And Dat's pronunciation has also improved significantly. Dat was lucky. And yet, "rescue missions" like this one, which incur high costs and major organisational efforts and are a great strain on the families - even with expert care - must remain an exception. We will continue to invest in the development of local independent medical structures, train domestic doctors and promote the interdisciplinary networking and knowledge transfer between our partners on a worldwide scale. **The result: lower treatment costs, high quality medical treatment – and a sustainable effect.**

> FROM OUR PROJECTS

New perspective:

Sahasri's treatment has improved her family's life for the better.

AID SCALE

The medical structures in our project countries vary considerably. We are not yet able to provide comprehensive cleft treatment everywhere, in some regions our aid is limited to individual operating campaigns. On the following pages we have illustrated the range of treatment available in our project countries with the help of an "aid scale":

- ★★★★★ = cleft centre with comprehensive interdisciplinary structures
- ★ = project location where only the basic surgeries are performed, including educational work

INDIA: A LAND OF CONTRADICTIONS

EDUCATION AS THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR AID

Superstition is still very widespread in India. Even in the supposedly more educated levels of society it determines people's lives. Rational explanations are seldom to be found when a child is born with a cleft lip and palate. The general belief is that the curse of a god has caused the congenital deformity, which can lead to the family being ostracised. It is often the mother who is seen as responsible for the clearly recognisable "flaw", and she is then burdened not only with the concern about her child, but also with having to endure mockery and rejection.

This was the fate of Sahasri's parents. Sahasri was born in March 2017 with a cleft lip and jaw as well as a cleft palate. Feeding the infant is made even more difficult by the cleft palate. Sahasri is very weak. At just five months of age she is so poorly that she needs treatment in a local hospital. But instead of being supported by their own family and neighbours in these trying times her parents encounter derision and hostility. In the hospital they become aware of Dr Reddy. Dr Reddy is the head of one of our cleft centres in Visakhapatnam. In 2018 he and his team performed 185 operations. Sahasri's parents suddenly have new hope. After the first operation, which closes the cleft lip, they bring their daughter back to Dr Reddy in March 2018 for the second operation, which closes her palate. Sahasri recovers quickly and can now even attend preschool.

Just one of many successful stories from the past year - and to us a validation of our philosophy of comprehensive care. Only through consistent educational work and recognisably successful therapy can we encourage a change in the prevailing views. It provides the only chance for cleft children to lead a normal life, to go to school and to be able to integrate into society as an equal.

Our aid in India is of a very high standard. In 2018 we were able to perform 2,431 operations spread out over our 26 treatment centres in 22 locations. Six of these centres offer comprehensive therapeutic care which covers all of the relevant medical professions (see page 7).



Operations 2018: 2,431

Project locations: 22

Cleft centres: 26

Organisation/Partner association: Akila Bharatha Mahila Sema Samaja (ABMSS), Bangalore

Funding amount 2018: € 685,667

ABMSS



Sahasri is a cheerful girl, loved by all.

2.431 OPERATIONS IN 26 TREATMENT CENTRES

Cleft centre: **Agra**
 State: **Uttar Pradesh**
 Surgeon: **Dr Gaurav Gupta**
 Operations 2018: **163**
 Range of treatment: ★★★★★

Cleft centre: **Ahmedabad**
 State: **Gujarat**
 Surgeon: **Dr Shyam Sheth**
 Operations 2018: **139**
 Range of treatment: ★★★★★

Cleft centre: **Surat**
 State: **Gujarat**
 Surgeon: **Dr Nehal Patel**
 Operations 2018: **155**
 Range of treatment: ★★★★★

Cleft centre: **Bhubaneswar**
 State: **Odisha**
 Surgeon: **Dr Sthita Prajna Lenka**
 Operations 2018: **168**
 Range of treatment: ★★

Cleft centre: **Kodagu & Bangalore**
 State: **Karnataka**
 Surgeon: **Dr Jayanth B. Subrahmanya**
 Operations 2018: **159**
 Range of treatment: ★★★★★

Cleft centre: **Mysore**
 State: **Karnataka**
 Surgeon: **Dr Manu Prasad**
 Operations 2018: **139**
 Range of treatment: ★★★★★

Visakhapatnam:
 Dr Siva Reddy handing
 over a treatment pass.



Raipur: surgeon Nirved
 Jain with a little patient.



Mangalore: always
 impressive - before
 and after surgery.





Hyderabad: Dr Vijay Kumar and Team at work.

Cleft centre: Hyderabad I
State: Telangana
Surgeon: Dr Vijay Kumar
Operations 2018: 195
Range of treatment: ★★★★★

Cleft centre: Patna
State: Bihar
Surgeon: Dr Uma Shankar
Operations 2018: 215
Range of treatment: ★★★★★

Cleft centre: Visakhapatnam I
State: Andhra Pradesh
Surgeon: Dr Siva Reddy
Operations 2018: 185
Range of treatment: ★★★★★

Cleft centre: Visakhapatnam II
State: Andhra Pradesh
Surgeon: Dr Sunita Yelavarthi
Operations 2018: 31
Range of treatment: ★★★★★

Cleft centre: Raipur
State: Chhattisgarh
Surgeon: Dr Nirved Jain
Operations 2018: 133
Range of treatment: ★★★

Cleft centre: Kolkata
State: West Bengal
Surgeon: Dr Siddharta Chatterjee
Operations 2018: 359
Range of treatment: ★★★★★

Smaller cleft centres:

Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
Delhi (Delhi)
Goa (Goa)
Katra (Jammu and Kashmir)
Jodhpur (Rajasthan)
Mangalore (Karnataka)
Mumbai/Pune, je I+II (Maharashtra)
Hyderabad II (Telangana)
Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)
Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
Total operations 2018: 390



Agra: education cannot be loud enough.

PERU

COMPREHENSIVE AID –
EVEN IN REMOTE AREAS

Apart from the 265 successfully performed operations, in 2018 the comprehensive care for cleft children was once again at the focus of our attention in Peru.

In Lima we enabled access to dental and orthodontic treatment, speech and functional therapeutic measures and psychological care of cleft children and their parents. Our interdisciplinary team can also often be found on operating campaigns away from Lima, so that patients who might be cut off from all other forms of aid can receive comprehensive treatment. We would like to thank the Sternstunden e.V. association, which is run by the German television station Bayerischer Rundfunk, as well as the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). While Sternstunden financed half of the total number of operations, the BMZ supported the setting up of comprehensive treatment structures in Lima and the rest of the country.



Project partner 1: **Qorito (Lima)/**

Dr Alberto Bardales

Project partner 2: **Dr. Mario Cornejo in Cusco**

Project launch: **2006**

Operations 2018: **265**

Operations since launch: **3,016**

Range of treatment: ★ ★ ★

Funding amount 2018: **€ 279,540**



Our partner for 12 years:
Dr Alberto Bardales

BOLIVIA

A CONVINCING PROJECT PRESENTATION

In Bolivia we are active with two projects. During the autumn of 2018 board of trustees member Prof Dr Dr Götz Ehmann (Hamburg) and executive board member Prof Dr Frank Feyerherd (Greifswald) inspected our most recent project, which is being run by Dr Adolfo Mamani from La Paz.

After six days on site they returned satisfied and enthused by what they had seen. Dr Mamani is not only a talented and good cleft surgeon, but also an excellent organiser and project developer. Jiwaqui Bolivia, the NGO that he founded towards the end of 2015, has already carried out 633 operations between 2016 and 2018, 225 in 2018 alone. On top of that he also made it possible that many cleft children could receive a comprehensive treatment. Building on this, Dr Mamani's goal is to establish an interdisciplinary cleft centre in the highlands of Bolivia as soon as possible. In 2018 the longstanding cooperation with our partner Dr Mario Villalba and his initiative Cleft Bolivia Amar y Sanar was also once again successful, with 57 surgical procedures being performed. Unlike Dr Mamani, Dr Villalba also operates on affected children from the Bolivian lowlands. Educating the population is at the focus of attention for both surgeons. Through poster campaigns and with support from the media they draw attention to the aid and communicate the dates for the operations, so that as many deprived families as possible can make it to the operating locations.



Project partner 1: Cleft Bolivia Amar y Sanar/
Dr. Mario Villalba, Tarija; Project partner 2:
Jiwaqui Bolivia/Dr. Adolfo Mamani, La Paz

Project launch: 2010

Operations 2018: 295

Operations since launch: 1.711

Range of treatment: ★★ ★

Funding amount 2018: €96,914



Successful:
Sheila after
treatment by
Dr Mamani



Götz Ehmann (left)
with **Frank Feyerherd**
visiting the project in
Bolivia

UGANDA/BURUNDI

CROSSING BORDERS: AID FOR CLEFT CHILDREN IN EAST AFRICA

The aid for cleft children at University Clinic Mbarara, in the south of Uganda, has been successfully established over a period of fifteen years by our two project managers Dr Dr Oliver Blume and Gunther Au-Balbach. Since 2012 the university clinic has been independently treating patients with cleft deformations. The focus in Uganda today lies on training and further education, as well as providing aid to the neighbouring countries.

Our Ugandan colleagues Dr Emmanuel Munyarugero, surgeon Dr Deus Twesigye and intensive care nurse Caroline Nakyanzi support operating campaigns beyond the borders in Burundi and Tanzania. In 2018 we accompanied them on a week-long campaign in Burundi, which we had committed to despite the tense political situation was quiet tense. At the beginning of February the African team, together with Oliver Blume and Gunther Au-Balbach, operated on 44 patients in Fondation Stamm's Bujumbura hospital Centre Médical Hippocrate (CMH). Approximately half of them were from the border region Uvira in neighbouring DR Congo. There, cleft children are left completely untreated, many living in the poorest conditions in refugee camps. We were especially happy to see



Project partner 1: University Clinic Mbarara (Uganda)

Project partner 2: Centre Médical Hippocrate/
Fondation Stamm (Burundi)

Operations 2018: 44 (during the campaign with
Dr Dr Oliver Blume and Gunther Au-Balbach)

Operations in East Africa since launch: 261

Range of treatment: ★ ★ ★

Funding amount 2018, including donation
of instruments: €38,718

little Shadia and her mother Niya again. In the year before, the girl from Burundi had received surgery in Uganda. The girl was very malnourished and the surgery was her only hope. This time Niya brought her daughter, who has developed magnificently, for a routine check-up. It is still too early for surgery of the palate. This procedure will have to wait for one of the next campaigns.



A little distraction before the operation



Oliver Blume (left) and Gunther Au-Balbach with a patient from Burundi

TANZANIA

MORE CAMPAIGNS
BY OUR AFRICAN TEAM

As in the year before, the Rwandan surgeon Dr Laurent Siborurema - who received his training from us - led two operating campaigns in Rulenge, north-western Tanzania. During these campaigns he and his team were able to surgically treat 33 cleft patients.



A safe surgical procedure was made possible by the experienced anaesthetist Dr Emmanuel Munyarugero. The search for the children and the care of their families was led by Dr Prosper Mallya, whom we employ as our local project coordinator. We would like to thank all voluntary activists who assist us with great enthusiasm in this positive development: Bishop Severine Niwemugizi, Dr Isack Majura, Dr Andreas



Project partner: Diocese Rulenge-Ngara
(Bishop Severine Niwemugizi), West-Tanzania
Surgeons: Dr Laurent Siborurema (Ruanda),
Dr Dr Oliver Blume, Gunther Au-Balbach
Project launch: 2016
Operations 2018: 33
Operations since launch: 74
Range of treatment: ★
Funding amount 2018: € 28,038

Wesselmann and our specialist project managers Dr Dr Oliver Blume and Gunther Au-Balbach. The project in Rulenge holds a special place in our hearts, as it is proof that our investments in training and further education of local specialists can bear fruit. Dr Laurent is highly motivated and to use his surgical activities and experiences to establish further African projects in the coming years!



Dr. Laurent (2nd from left) with the team of the clinic in Rulenge

PAKISTAN

NUMBER OF OPERATIONS
INCREASED AGAIN

In 2018 we managed to slightly increase the number of surgical procedures. This positive development is mainly thanks to our capable local cooperation partner, the experienced surgeon Prof Dr Muhammad Ashraf Ganatra.

As head of the project, Prof Ganatra tirelessly drives the development of our aid forward. On the occasion of the World Cleft Lip & Palate Congress, which took place in Leipzig during April of 2018, we had the opportunity to meet Prof Ganatra in person for the first time. The Karachi-based renowned Al-Mustafa Welfare Society is the legal body responsible for the project. Our thanks on the German side goes to our project manager Dr Ulrike Lamlé, who has already twice been on site. We would also like to thank the decision-makers at the German Foreign Office in Berlin, who in autumn of 2018 committed to financial support for an additional twelve months. We are pleased about this project, which benefits the many cleft children of Sindh province with its 40m-strong population.



Project partner: **Al-Mustafa Welfare Society**

Head of project and chief surgeon:

Prof. Muhammad Ashraf Ganatra

Project location:

cleft centre at the University of Karachi

Project launch: **2013**

Operations 2018: **847**

Operations since launch: **2.761**

Range of treatment: ★ ★ ★

Funding amount 2018: **€ 230,955**



Prof. Ganatra (right)
during consultation.

BANGLADESH

FIVE SURGEONS UNDER ONE ROOF

In Bangladesh we added four new surgeons to our team. Now there are a total of five renowned and experienced surgeons working together under the roof of Cleft Bangladesh (cleftbangladesh.org).

This was made possible through our cooperation with the Australian aid organisation Operation Cleft Australia (OCA), which since the beginning of 2018 has been active as project co-sponsor and finances the aid in the country. On the administrative side we oversee the joint project in cooperation with the local Syed Nuruddin Ahmed Development Foundation (SNAD), which is based in Dhaka. Only weeks into the project it already became apparent that we would increase the number of operations significantly. The year under review records 761 operations, but for 2019 we are currently reckoning with some 1,500 cleft children who will be able to have their operation! This growth is urgently needed, as the number of affected children in Bangladesh is very high. According to some estimations, more than 6,000 children are born with a cleft deformity each year. We have operated on children in the environs of Dhaka and throughout the country. In the district of Cox's Bazar, Dr Muhammad Quamruzzaman has been operating on cleft patients of all ages from the Rohingya minority who fled Myanmar and now live in enormous refugee camps. We are therefore also able to provide adults - who sometimes suffer under severe deformities - with a new outlook on life.



Project partner new: **Syed Nuruddin Ahmed Development Foundation (SNAD Foundation)**
 Cooperation association: **Operation Cleft Australia (OCA)**
 Project locations: **ospitals in Dhaka and many other parts of the country**
 Project launch: **2010**
 Operations 2018: **761**
 Operations since launch: **4,093**
 Range of treatment: ★★
 Funding amount 2018: **€ 189,005**



Happy father
and son after
surgery.

VIETNAM

FROM NORTH TO SOUTH: TWO PROJECTS WITH HIGH STANDARDS

It was a happy occasion when the head of our Vietnamese partner association, the experienced surgeon Dr Ai, came to visit us in Freiburg last summer. We are especially pleased that he has made it once again possible for us to help cleft patients in the remote and mountainous regions along the border with Laos and China.

In 2018 Dr Ai performed 97 operations. Ethnic minorities in Vietnam still face difficulties when trying to access qualified medical care. And our project in Ho-Chi-Minh-City (Saigon), which we have been sponsoring since 2016 together with the Taiwan-based Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation (NCF), is also making extremely good progress. Our two surgeons from Munich, Dr Daniel Lonic and Dr Dr Denys Loeffelbein oversee it on a voluntary basis. Together with their Vietnamese colleagues and a highly qualified Taiwanese medical team led by Prof Lo, they performed a number of operations at the project's base during springtime. The young and talented Vietnamese surgeon Dr Duong has made some excellent development and is now established as head surgeon in the Odonto-Maxillofacial Hospital. It is also pleasing to see the number of patients growing steadily: in 2018 we financed 98 operations. Furthermore, a positive development can be recognised in the pre-operative therapy using palatal plates (NAM-Therapy), as well as treatments with orthodontic measures and speech therapy.



Dr. Ai (left) with Alexander Gross



Project partner 1: **Odonto-Maxillo-Facial Hospital, Ho-Chi-Minh-City**

Cooperations association: **Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation, Taiwan**

Range of treatment: ★★☆☆

Project partner 2: **Center for Researching and Aiding Smile Operation (OSCA), Hanoi (Dr Ai)**

Range of treatment: ★★

Project launch: **2006**

Operations 2018: **195**

Operations since launch: **2,970**

Funding amount 2018: **€ 65,379**



Little patient with his mother in Ho-Chi-Minh-City

THE PHILIPPINES

CONCERTED
AID FOR CLEFT
CHILDREN

Project partner 1: Noordhoff
Craniofacial Foundation Philippines

Range of treatment: ★★ ★★ ★★

Project partner 2: Operation Smile Philippines

Range of treatment: ★

Project launch: 2008

Operations 2018: 80

Operations since launch: 679

Funding amount 2018: € 20,080 Euro

INDONESIA

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS
– HIGH COSTS IN
LOCATING PATIENTS

Project partner 1: RSUD Dr Saiful Anwar
Hospital, Malang

Surgeon: Prof Bambang Pardjianto

Project location: operating campaigns on remote islands

Project launch: 2014

Operations 2018: 14

Operations since launch: 186

Range of treatment: ★

Funding amount 2018: € 9,217

During the year of review we once again supported two local organisations that provide aid for cleft children: Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation Philippines and Operation Smile Philippines. We are pleased to be able to assist in the search for patients within this sprawling archipelago of more than 7,000 islands and to thereby contribute to more affected children receiving qualified surgical treatment. In addition to surgery on 51 "normal" cleft deformities we also enabled the treatment of more difficult cases. Three children with complex facial anomalies had to be brought to Manila, where the surgical procedures were carried out successfully.



Waiting for the operation.

The search for patients in Indonesia is not easy. Large parts of the island regions are difficult to reach. The effort to reach the affected families and transport them to the campaign locations is considerable. We task local, mostly smaller organisations who claim high reimbursements. This has an effect on the cost of surgery: in Indonesia it amounts to €350, €100 over the €250 that we usually refund per operation. But for us, and the local surgeon Prof Bambang Pardjianto, every child counts. In the course of a campaign on the island of Flores he and his team, with the support of our project manager Ulrike Lamlé, carried out 14 operations. Prof Pardjianto is currently trying to bring down the costs. For 2019 we have increased our funding slightly. We would like to continue to stand by the many cleft children in Indonesia's enormous and not readily accessible archipelago.

Little Suri
receiving the best
of care.



AFGHANISTAN

NUMBER OF OPERATIONS STABLE DESPITE ADVERSE CONDITIONS

Project partner 1: Dr Habibullah Atif, Faizabad
 Project partner 2: Dr Sebghatullah Natory, Kunduz/Kabul
 Project p. 3: Dr Wahed Abdul Ershad/Dr Nooria Zia, Masar-i-Sharif
 Project launch: 2010
 Operations 2018: 123
 Operations since launch: 1,192
 Range of treatment: ★ ★
 Funding amount 2018: € 24,822,



CHINA

SUPPORT OF SPEECH THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES

Project partner: The Xi'an Jiatong University Stomatological Hospital
 Speech therapist: Dr Ma; Projektstandort: Xi'an
 Cooperation partner: Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation, Taiwan; Project launch: 2018; Extent: comprehensive treatment, especially speech therapy
 Range of treatment: ★ ★ ★ ★
 Funding amount 2018: € 21,001

In comparison to the year before, the situation in Afghanistan has sadly not improved. The medical care for cleft children remains poor. We are therefore all the more grateful for the tenacity and valiant dedication of our Afghan team of doctors: the surgeons Dr Habibullah Atif, Dr Sebghatullah Natory, Dr Wahed Abdul Ershad and Dr Nooria Zia, all of whom received their training through us.

Despite the persistently difficult conditions these committed doctors still managed to operate on 123 children in 2018, thereby giving them a chance of recovery and social acceptance. Educating the population remains one of the greatest challenges. It takes courage to travel to remote villages and - sometimes facing the resistance of radical groupings - educate the affected families and convince them of the necessity for an operation.

The situation of cleft children in many rural regions of China is difficult. Many of the affected children have been abandoned by their parents and can be found in orphanages. Although the standard of surgical care continues to improve and is partially government funded, there is still a great demand for cleft centres that offer comprehensive treatment. Especially cleft children from the poorer parts of the population have significant problems accessing the equally important follow-on treatment. We have been sponsoring speech therapeutic measures at the University Clinic of Xi'an since 2018, together with our friends from the Taiwan-based Noordhoff Craniofacial Foundation. Our local partner is the China-wide recognised speech therapist Dr Ma, who originally trained as a surgeon. For several years now she has dedicated herself to the treatment of children with cleft lip and palates after their operation. The project in Xi'an was initiated by our head of project Dr Ulrike Lamlé, who currently lives in Hong Kong.



Soraya before and after the operation.



Speech therapy session with Dr Ma (left).

A sincere thank you

ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR
TO OUR MANY FRIENDS
AND SUPPORTERS



Our special thanks go to our sponsors who are continuously - sometimes for many years running – supporting us and thereby enabling us to provide sustainable aid:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
|  Lore-Keller- Stiftung |  BMZ |  Dr. Martin Andreas Stiftung |  Operation Cleft Australia |  Schweizer Hilfe für Spaltkinder |  Auswärtiges Amt |  Sternstunden e. V. |  Margarete Müller- Bull Stiftung |  Charlotte- Steppuhn-Stiftung |
| <p>➤ Lucas Volk-Stiftung</p> <p>➤ Laki Kids International e. V.</p> | | <p>➤ Stiftung Hilfswerk Deutscher Zahnärzte</p> <p>➤ Nordheim Stiftung</p> | | <p>➤ Medwel Kinderfonds Stiftung</p> <p>➤ Hans und Elfriede Westphal-Stiftung</p> | | <p>➤ Nader Etmenan Stiftung</p> | | |

Business partners and private sponsors:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Plastimat GmbH > Amann Girschbach AG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > MESTO Ernst Stockburger GmbH > CHANGE Sportswear GmbH & Co. KG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > NTD New Tech Development GmbH > SunshineSmile GmbH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Markus Alber and Thomas Alber families |
|---|---|---|---|

A SEAL OF TRUST



We have been awarded with the DZI seal for the responsible handling of the donated funds since 2012 (which was based on the annual report 2010). In order to keep it we voluntarily undergo the strictly regulated audit on an annual basis. The seal is awarded by the Berlin-based Deutsches Zentralinstitut für soziale Fragen - DZI (Central Institute for Social Issues). The seal attests the certified organisation's responsible and careful use of the donations entrusted to them.

A BEQUEST FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

In commemoration of our supporters who considered us with a bequest in 2018: with almost €30,000 and a small property they continue to enable cleft children a better future beyond their own passing. We would like to thank them most sincerely for their confidence.

ON A MISSION FOR OUR CLEFT CHILDREN

A new partnership

The "AG Charity Games" in October was the starting signal for a very special cooperation. AG stands for Amann Girrbach. The company, which is headquartered in the Austrian town of Koblach, is among the leading innovators and preferred full-service-providers of digital dental prosthetics. Amann Girrbach believes in the great importance of social and eco-

nomic responsibility of businesses and is particularly dedicated to implementing this philosophy. It was all about fun, team spirit and the good cause at the "AG Charity Games", held during the international AG dealership meeting. Dealership representatives and AG employees from sixty countries raised an impressive €11,224.50 for cleft children.



Help & Music: musicians help children

"Around the world": that was the motto under which we departed on a musical journey on March 17, 2018, accompanied by a captivating orchestra. The exceptional concert was organised by our long-time friend and supporter Jörg Beutel, chairperson of the newly established Help & Music foundation, with assistance from the Lions Club Filderstadt. A fantastic charity event which resulted in proceeds that paid for the operations of sixteen cleft children.

Class support

"We have it good here, but others suffer". This realisation led the tenth-grade pupils from the Matern-Feuerbach secondary school in Grossbottwar to donate a part of the money that they had collected for their final year school trip. On hearing about our aid for cleft children they quickly decided to help a cleft child. Our colleague Andrea Weiberg was very pleased to receive the 250-euro donation from the 29 dedicated young adults.



Raunheim helps cleft children in Tanzania

Dr Isack Majura has been working voluntarily for our project in his home country of Tanzania since 2016. He is a full-time street worker in the German town of Raunheim. Supported by the mayor Thomas Jühle, he organised a public information event. The audience got to hear an emphatic lecture with authentic reports from Tanzania.



FINANCES AND OUTLOOK

Special successes

In addition to the steady increase in our numbers of operations we would like to particularly emphasise the development in some of our project countries. Thanks to our new cooperation partner Operation Cleft Australia we were able to add four new doctors into our team in Bangladesh towards the end of 2018. With a total of now five excellently qualified surgeons we expect to increase the number of operations - 761 in 2018 - at least twofold: 1,500 operations are a realistic target. And in Pakistan we recorded a consistently high number of surgical procedures with more than 800 operations being performed. By extending their support by one year, the German Foreign Office secured the continued existence of the project at this level until October of 2019.

India remains our most important project country when it comes to the total number of operations. But beyond that, it is also leading in the area of interdisciplinary treatment structures. In six of the 26 treatment centres we can already today offer a comprehensive cleft therapy in which all relevant medical specialist disciplines are represented. In this context we can also mention a further gratifying cooperation. Since the middle of 2018 the Canadian charitable organisation Transforming Faces has been supporting the necessary follow-on treatment in our cleft centres in Mysore and Agra. South America is also developing nicely in this area. In Peru our longstanding project manager and surgeon Dr Alberto Bardales has had an interdisciplinary team of doctors and therapists at his side since 2016. In neighbouring Bolivia Dr Adolfo Mamani is vigorously engaged in set-

ting up a cleft centre. Our long-term target in our project countries is to implement independent medical structures. In order to achieve this, we invest consistently in the training of our local project managers. Our project in East Africa exemplifies this. Uganda was one of our first project locations. Thanks to the longstanding and tireless efforts by our project managers Dr Oliver Blume and Gunther Au-Balbach, the medical faculty of the University of Mbarara has been independently operating on cleft patients since 2012. We managed to ensure that the surgeon Dr Deus - who received his training from us - and anaesthetist Dr Emma continue to stay with us. Under the leadership of the Rwandan surgeon Dr Laurent, also trained by us, the three have come together to form a dedicated African team that has been operating on cleft patients in western Tanzania since 2017. We plan to extend our aid for East Africa in 2019.

Expenses for advertising and public relations

The engagement of our supporters is the foundation for our work. Our supporters are kept informed via fundraising letters sent by post and digitally through an email newsletter. The conception and texts of these methods of communication are done within house, for the creation of the fundraising letters and annual report we are supported by MSG|media - Sebastian Schampera. Burger Druck GmbH, Drescher Full-Service Versand GmbH and a+s DialogGroup GmbH were commissioned with printing and distribution. Our special thanks goes to IP Deutschland GmbH. Through their "social spot-program" initiative we get to broadcast our television advert pro bono on several German TV stations of the RTL Mediagroup, mostly on VoX.

ANNUAL ACCOUNT 2018

The increase in total operation numbers led to an increase in spending. The total expenditure of €2.125m stands against donations totalling €2.088m in 2018, €37k had to be financed from reserves. 79.5 percent of the expenses went to project funding: €1.428m to direct medical aid, €262k in project coordination and support. 0.5 percent was used for statutory specialist information. The expenses for procurement of funds, advertising and administration accordingly lay at 20 percent. The annual account is currently being audited by an accountancy firm and will be published in a detailed version of our annual report on our website in October 2019.

Arequipa, Peru:
a little patient
with his mother



*Thank you all
from the
bottom of our
hearts!*



Burundi, 2018: our cover girl Shadia with her grateful mother.

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

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79106 Freiburg im Breisgau
Germany
Telefon 0761 137 976-0
info@spaltkinder.org
www.spaltkinder.org

Donations account:
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
IBAN: DE46 2512 0510 0008 4842 00
BIC: BFSWDE33HAN
SEPA creditor identification number:
DE56ZZZ00000147759



The Deutsches Zentralinstitut für soziale Fragen - DZI (German Central Institute for Social Issues) has audited the use of our finances. In recognition of our responsible handling of the funds entrusted to us it has awarded the Deutsche Cleft Kinderhilfe with the DZI seal.