



## Interplast Surgical Outreach Centers

Empowering Overseas Communities, Creating Year-round Access to Care

**Interplast supports 12 permanent Surgical Outreach Centers in nine countries, where 2,400 surgeries are performed per year. This model of empowerment, sustainability and self-sufficiency creates long-term surgical care where it never existed before.**

Interplast, the first international humanitarian organization to provide free reconstructive plastic surgery in developing countries, envisions a world in which no human being suffers physically or emotionally from a repairable congenital deformity or injury. To reach that vision, Interplast partners with volunteers and overseas medical colleagues to educate and empower local communities so that medical access is available year-round.

In 1999, Dr. Shankar Man Rai, the organization's partner in **Nepal**, assembled a local team of medical professionals to provide free surgeries, speech therapy and other medical services year-round in Kathmandu and rural Nepal. In its first three years, the Surgical Outreach Center in Nepal treated more than 3,000 patients, more than 10 times the number than could have been treated through volunteer direct service trips to that location. It demonstrated that Interplast could dramatically expand access by directing more resources and support to locally managed programs.

In addition to **Nepal**, Interplast has Surgical Outreach Centers in **Bangladesh, Ecuador, Ghana (2), India (2), Nicaragua, Peru (2), Sri Lanka and Zambia**—all part of a concerted global humanitarian effort to uplift the lives of underserved children everywhere. Although many of the surgeons are based in urban areas, most of them travel regularly to more remote and underserved regions to care for patients in rural villages and towns. They often work in coordination with local hospitals and clinics in order to share resources and personnel in an effective manner.

**Interplast provides support to the centers with funding, quality review, technological expertise and advanced medical training.** Innovative web-based technology allows outreach cases to be reviewed for quality and safety assurances by Interplast's chief medical officer and experienced volunteer surgeons in the United States, Canada and around the world. It also allows for surgery training to continue after visiting medical instructors return home.

Focusing on sustainability and self-sufficiency—training local medical professionals and providing them with more resources as an alternative to service trips of volunteers from the West—has proved especially valuable. As an example, Nepal's recent political situation made it difficult for U.S. volunteer groups to enter the country. Having trained Interplast-affiliated physicians in-country has allowed Interplast to continue providing direct care to those who need it.

Through strategic partnerships with international medical professionals, Interplast is dynamically approaching the future and creating systemic, long-term support for people with birth defects and injuries in the developing world. Surgical Outreach Centers are supported by grants from The Smile Train, Ronald McDonald House Charities, The Syde Hurdus Foundation, the Forever Young Foundation and a number of other generous sponsors.

*Interplast—the first humanitarian organization to provide free reconstructive surgery for children with clefts, disabling burns and hand injuries—has provided 68,000 life-changing surgeries for those who have no other access to care. Working in underserved regions of 16 countries throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America, Interplast teaches, empowers and partners with volunteers and overseas medical professionals so every child living in poverty has free access to the safest and highest-quality care—now and in the future. Interplast is committed to transforming as many lives as possible, allocating 90 percent of its budget to medical programs.*

For more information, visit [www.interplast.org](http://www.interplast.org) or call 650.962.0123.