

Kids Operating Room

# IMPACT REPORT 2021



KidsOR  
surgery for children

← OPERATION THEATRE

↙ X-RAY, LABORATORY



## Kids Operating Room

KidsOR is a global health charity focused entirely on the provision of high quality, safe surgical services for children in low- and middle-income countries. From our bases in Edinburgh, Dundee, London and Nairobi, we provide surgical teams with the infrastructure and training needed to transform the care available for their nation's children.

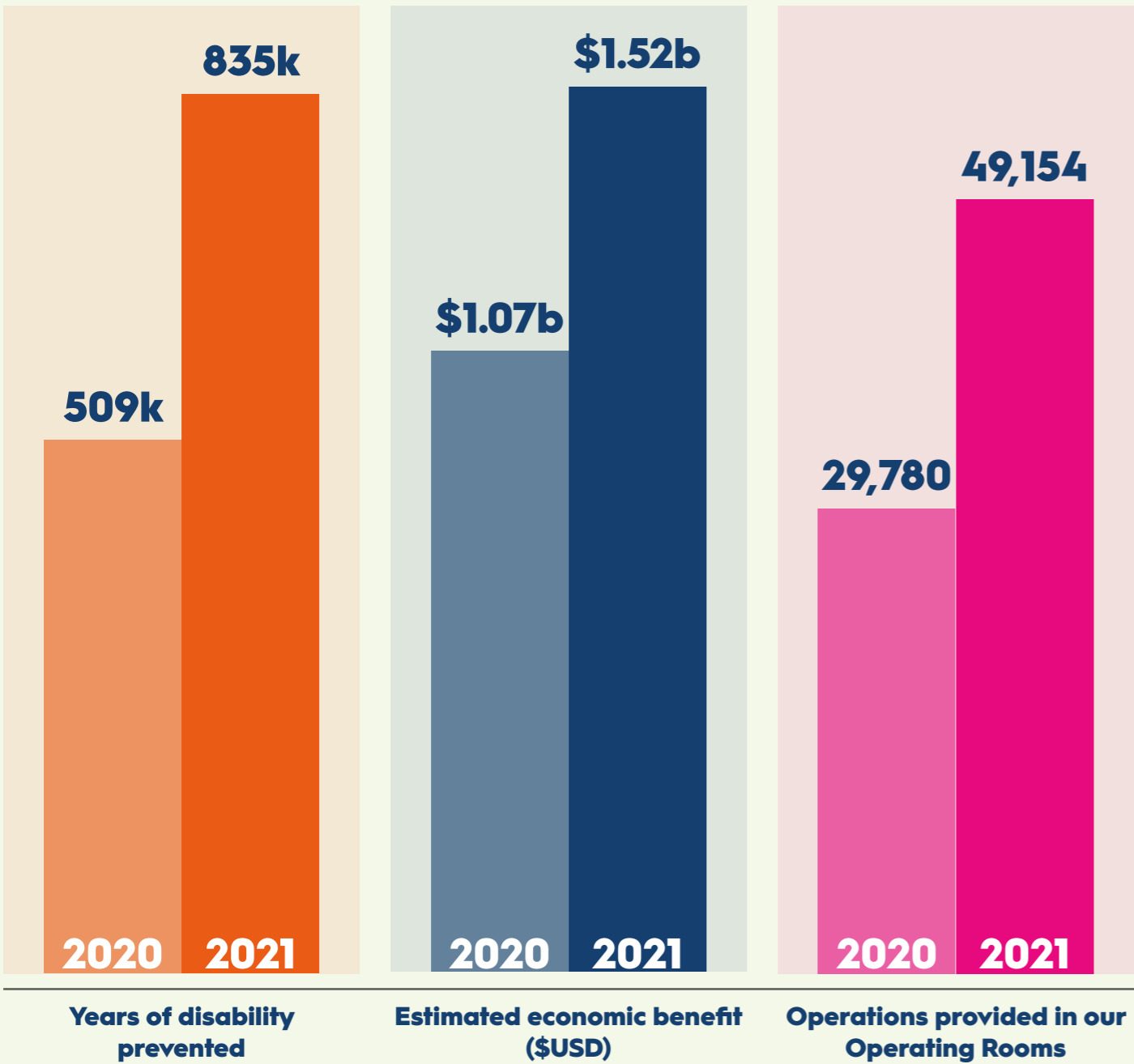
We believe in a world where every child has equal access to safe surgery. Sustainability is at the heart of our model, and we only invest in local people; building real capacity and promoting self-reliance in the long-term. We organise the finance and the logistical know-how to establish state-of-the-art children's Operating Rooms. With regional partners we train local surgical teams, and we work with health authorities in-country to ensure that the facilities we create are maintained and upgraded over the years.

# 2021 IN NUMBERS

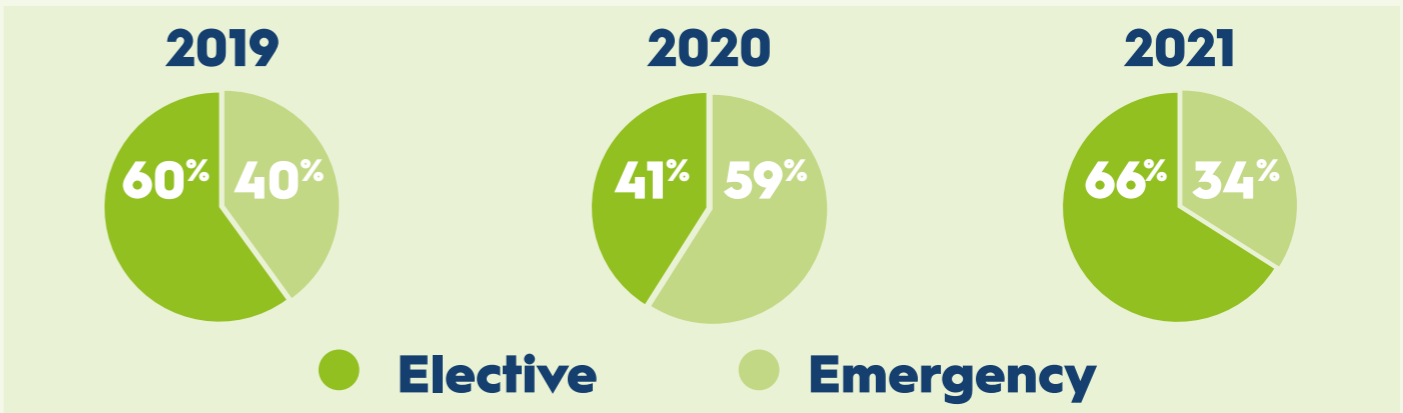
We conduct independent research to evaluate the impact of our work, with our friends at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). For every operation performed in one of our partner hospitals, a local data collector records key data about the operation and its outcomes, as well as its impact on the child and their family.

Analysing and reporting this data is vital to support local surgical teams, sustain political will, and provide donors with clarity on the difference they have made. Our research will show the real cost, and benefit, of saving a child’s life, of preventing a life of pain and disability, and of transforming children’s futures.

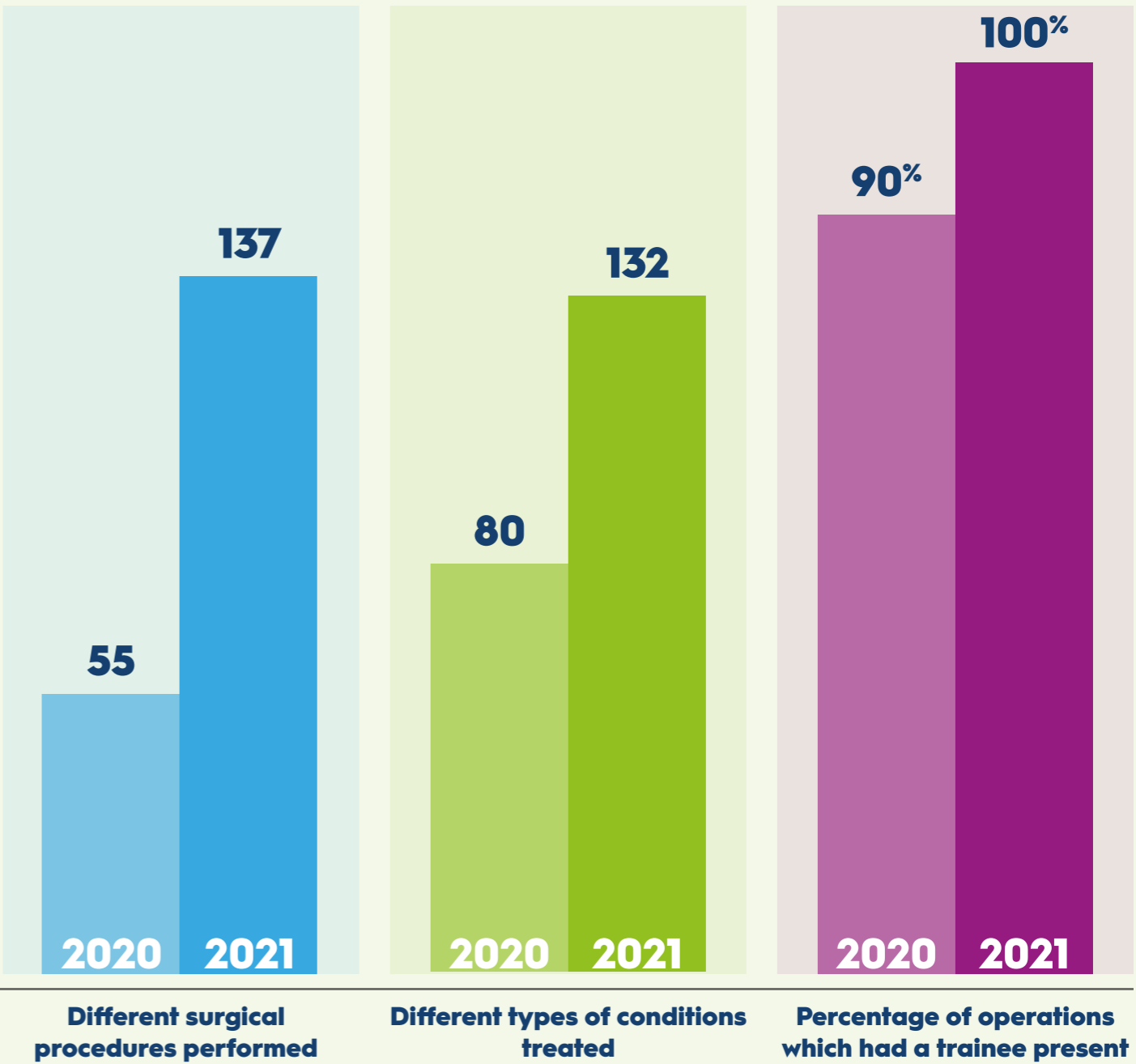
Data Below Is Accumulative Across Our ORs From 2018



## Operations In a KidsOR

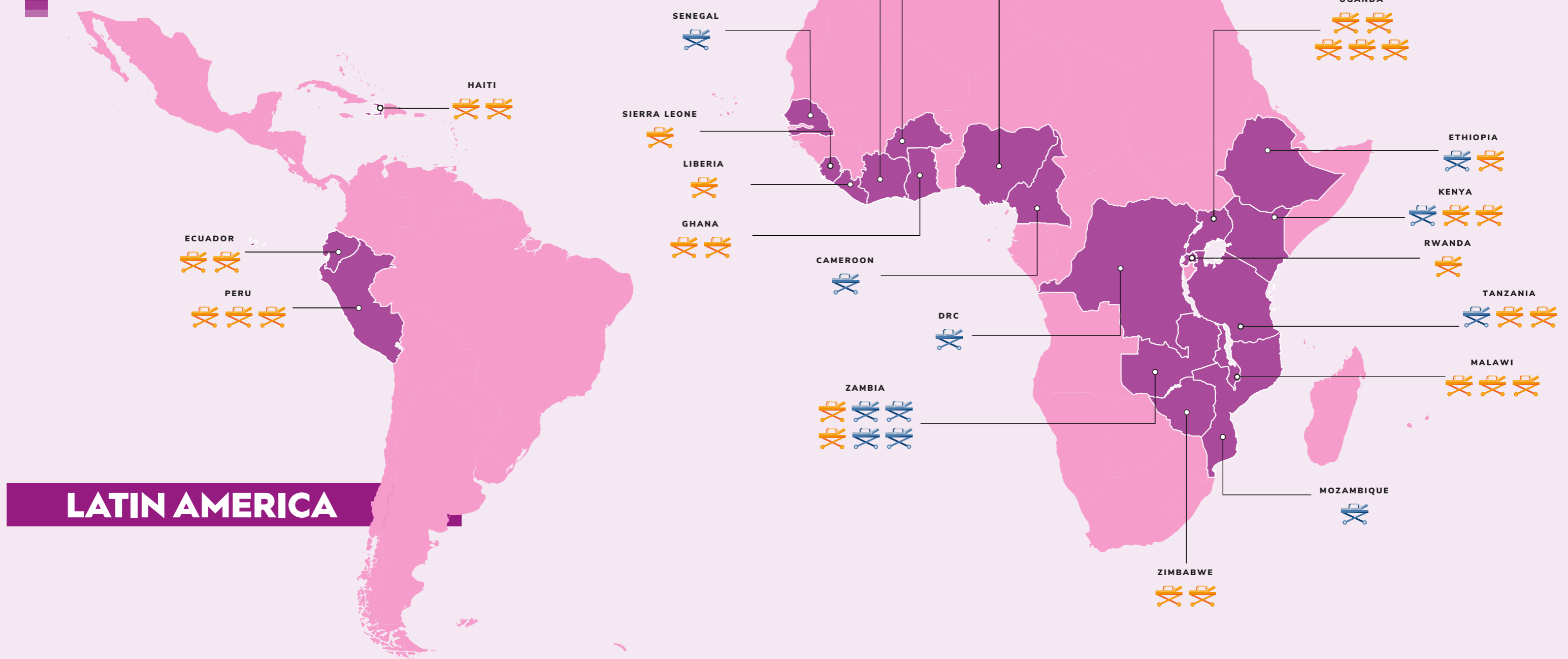


Data Below Is Directly Comparative



# WHERE WE WORK

2021 was our busiest year to date; we installed a further 23 Operating Rooms across the African continent bringing our total number of Operating Rooms to 50.



Since KidsOR Started In 2018:



**50 TOTAL OPERATING ROOMS INSTALLED**



**16 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SMILE TRAIN**

In order to support our goal of developing truly sustainable health systems, KidsOR provides scholarships to local doctors so that they can become paediatric surgeons. In 2021 we provided 22 scholarships in Africa, including 3 in partnership with Smile Train.



**\$37,000,000**  
**ECONOMIC BENEFIT**  
Since Aug 2019

## ABUJA, NIGERIA

Approx. 30 million children nationwide

By providing more than 3,300 pieces of specialised paediatric surgical equipment in each Operating Room, more children are now able to access the vital surgical care they need to survive.

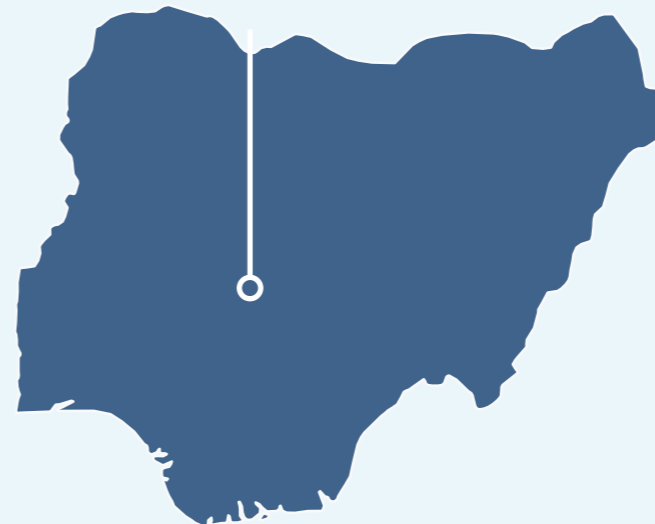
There is at least one trainee paediatric surgeon and one trainee anesthesiologist present in every operation. This provides a long-term positive impact for children's access to lifesaving surgery in Nigeria.

"Having a KidsOR Operating Room means that our backlog of patients, which used to involve a waiting list of a year or sometimes more, has been cleared. The relief on the faces of parents when they realise that their kids can have operations within a few days – enough time for pre-operative preparation – is priceless. Thank you KidsOR for such a tremendous gift!"

**- Dr Olubunmi Majekodunmi,**  
Chief Paediatric Surgeon,  
National Hospital Abuja

### ABUJA

National Hospital



### IMPACT



**CAPACITY FOR  
1,800 OPERATIONS  
EACH YEAR**



**THE NUMBER  
OF NEONATES  
ACCESSING SURGERY  
INCREASED BY 140%**



**20,400 DISABILITY  
ADJUSTED LIFE  
YEARS AVERTED  
EACH YEAR**



**66% INCREASE  
IN OPERATIONS  
POST-INSTALL**

## CASE STUDY

# KAKUMA

**In June 2021 KidsOR installed the world's first paediatric Operating Room in a refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya.**

The Operating Room, led by Kenyan paediatric surgeon Neema Kaseje is expected to care for up to 1,000 children every year.

Alongside partners UNHCR, the International Refugee Council, and funded by the Biltema Foundation, the dedicated OR will also scale the paediatric surgical care in Kakuma through the training of junior doctors.

Jibril was born with a hernia in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and suffered greatly due to the condition. Now living in Kakuma, severe stomach aches limited his ability to eat, play and attend school. His suffering finally ended in June 21 after a surgical procedure in the recently installed Kids Operating Room. His mother rejoices that her son was able to access safe surgery and is finally pain free enjoying a happy childhood.



**JIBRIL AND HIS  
MOTHER, AZIZI**

# ZAMBIA

Approx. 8 million children nationwide

Zambia was our largest project in a single country at the one time. Two hospitals – six Operating Rooms.

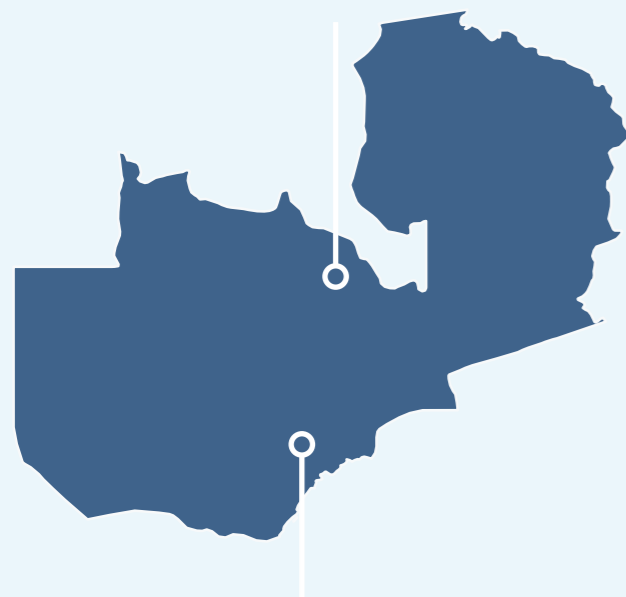
Before the install, 20% of the operations in University Teaching Hospital went ahead without the necessary surgical resources. The biggest barrier for the surgical team was regulating children's temperatures, which often meant having to delay life-saving operations to warmer days. Zambia only has six paediatric surgeons serving 8 million children.

"We were using our phone lights to carry out some procedures, which made surgery difficult. We now have three state-of-the-art Operating Rooms thanks to KidsOR"

- Dr Mulenga,  
Paediatric Surgeon,  
Arthur Davidson Hospital

## NDOLA

Arthur Davidson



## LUKASA

University Teaching Hospital



## IMPACT



CAPACITY FOR  
3,600 OPERATIONS  
EACH YEAR



TWO NEW DEDICATED  
PAEDIATRIC  
SURGEONS IN  
TRAINING



61,000 DISABILITY  
ADJUSTED LIFE  
YEARS AVERTED  
EACH YEAR

DR MULENGA,  
PAEDIATRIC SURGEON



**\$100,000**  
**ECONOMIC BENEFIT**  
Since Sep 2021



**ZAINABU  
HAROUB SAID**

## CASE STUDY

# ZAINABU HAROUB SAID

**Zainabu Haroub Said arrived at the local hospital in her city of Arusha, Tanzania as she had suffered severe burns.**

In February 2021, Zainabu had been playing with her friends when her mother, Zuleha, asked her to check on a stew that was cooking. Horrifically, the open flame in the kitchen caught Zainabu's dress and, before she knew what was happening, she was engulfed in fire. By the time her mother got to her, her clothes were so burnt that they had stuck to her skin.

Her wounds were cleaned out, but after a month of pain the local hospital had done all they could with the resources available to them. Zainabu was referred to Muhimbili National Hospital – a hospital over 600km away with a Kids Operating Room.

She underwent skin grafts and operations on her wounds and continued to do so over the remaining months of 2021. These operations were possible due to the skills of the local surgeons and specialist paediatric tools provided by KidsOR when the Operating Room was installed. Zainabu and her mother spent Christmas and New year in hospital, apart from their family, so that she could receive the care she needed.

In what has been a long recovery, Zainabu received the last of her skin grafts in February 2022 and is now starting physiotherapy. She has remained smiling and resilient throughout, and thanks to the operation she received she can progress her education and childhood free from pain and disability.

"Zainabu came when she was weak and needing a lot of care as the burns were massive. We, as the doctors who have been treating her, are proud of the progress she has made. We are positive that she will resume her normal life; schooling and play with friends, once she is done with physiotherapy and counselling." observed Dr Edwin Mrema, plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Muhimbili National Hospital.

KidsOR are delighted to have played our part in giving Zainab a future that is still full of potential.



# COVID RESPONSE

**Each KidsOR Operating Room is comprised of over 3000 pieces of essential surgical equipment. Getting that equipment from Dundee to hospitals around the world requires the expertise of our team.**

It's because of this reputation and track record that the Scottish Government turned to KidsOR to deliver 22.9 million items of

PPE to help avert the critical consequences of COVID-19 across Africa.

This request from the Scottish Government was the result of ongoing conversations with KidsOR partner hospitals where doctors and surgeons outlined the dangerous and deadly situation engulfing their teams and patients.

In many cases, doctors were without even the most basic protection against the virus, with make-shift or reused masks and without goggles or gowns. Our key surgical partners were reporting how, at worst, colleagues were dying from the virus and, at best, were getting ill or having to isolate, leaving already understaffed hospitals vulnerable.

A lack of PPE was one element in a wider crisis, with most hospitals also facing an acute shortage of oxygen and ventilators. Doctors and their teams were regularly having to make excruciating decisions between who received treatment and who would not. It was for this reason that KidsOR shipped 300 oxygen concentrators and 40 ventilators donated by the Scottish Government alongside the PPE; putting life-saving tools into life-saving hands.

KidsOR's response to surgeon's requests would not have been possible without generous donors stepping up to provide critical funding. We thank The Wood Foundation, Pula Limited, Postcode Innovation Trust, Delta Philanthropies and the Scottish Government for moving quickly to make an incredible difference to the response

on the ground in nine countries across Africa.

Providing the PPE, ventilators and oxygen concentrators was a huge logistical feat, involving dozens of packed shipping containers. It was also a reminder of KidsOR's relatively simple model: we listen to doctors, then give them what they need. Our expertise as a global health charity, alongside our incredible network of investment partners, meant we were uniquely placed to deliver this life-saving equipment to our colleagues in Africa.

**22.9 MILLION  
PPE ITEMS DELIVERED**



Garreth (Left) and David (Right) at our Centre For Global Operations in Dundee, Scotland

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR & CEO

# LOOKING AHEAD

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of so many colleagues and friends of the charity, 2021 was our most impactful year yet. We are hugely excited to look ahead into 2022 when we will further expand access to safe surgery for children in low-resource settings.




In the year ahead we plan to:

- Install **25** Operating Rooms – taking us to **75** Operating Rooms by the end of the year, and creation of capacity for **45,000** operations every year
- Expand our footprint to **34** countries by the end of the year
- Start **20** new surgical scholarships in Africa
- **Launch** our advocacy campaign for children's right to safe surgery
- **Launch** KidsOR USA so that we can further advance our work to give every child access to care when they need it.

Our ability to deliver this wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our donors, collaboration with our partners and the dedication of our Board, volunteers and staff team. We are constantly inspired by them all and would like to thank them for helping to drive KidsOR forward. Together we can make access to life-saving and life-changing surgery for every child a reality.

**Garreth Wood,**  
Co-founder & Chair

**David Cunningham,**  
CEO

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