

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



By supporting training in safer reconstructive surgery, and by the efforts of African surgical teams engaged at the bedside of their patients, 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE places at the heart of its activities, men, women and children who are waiting for surgical care dictated by their pathologies.

In 2019, the Association mobilized its international and African teams to ensure that 215 patients (106 women, 38 men, 71 children) could get medical care.

## OUR TREATED PATIENTS WERE DIVERSE :



**An 8-month-old child with a congenital deformity**

**A man of working age suffering the sequela of burn injury**

**A Congolese woman farmer with a giant goiter distorting her neck**

**Women in Ethiopia impacted by obstetric fistulas**

Plastic or reconstructive surgery is a surgical specialty used in urgent or chronic clinical situations, little-known and all too often falsely associated with esthetic surgery. Its purpose is not only to restore the shape but also the skin and certain deficient or damaged functions of the human body. The treated lesions often require repair and/or replacement of living tissue. They may be congenital, traumatic, tumor, infectious, vascular, or resulting from cancer treatments or age.

This diversity is in some cases the cause of multiple areas covering plastic surgery and other medical specialties. Collaboration with other specialties improves patient care. Surgical stakes are particularly high in one third of the poorest countries, where only 4% of the world's annual surgical operations are carried out. However, it is recognized that 28 to 32% of the global burden of pathologies can be treated by surgery.

RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY  
FOR LIFE RECONSTRUCTION

## RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

2019 was an important year as 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE committed its resources to expanding its activities in West Africa.

Its representatives participated in the Scientific Conference of the West African College of Surgeons (WACS) in Dakar from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to negotiate the signing of a partnership agreement with this important regional organization. Relations with the members of the College Council developed positively until the signing on 17 April 2019 of a co-operation agreement on the dynamization of reconstructive surgery training in the region.

From 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE organized in co-operation with Dr. Pius Agbenorku of Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, the first basic course at the Greater Accra Hospital in Ghana. 20 surgeons from 8 countries in the region actively participated in 5 days of theoretical courses and surgery. This first experience allowed the different participants to work together beyond language barriers.

From 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Dr Alberto Musolas participated as an instructor in a week's campaign to take care of cleft lips and palates in Cotonou (Benin) arranged by the organization "Smile Train".

**As part of our reconstructive surgery training program developed in partnership with COSECSA (College of Surgeons of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa) we co-organized :**

**a "basic course II" at the University Hospital of Lusaka (Zambia)  
attended by 18 surgeons from 9 African countries  
(from 06<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2019)**

**a "basic course I" at the Tumbe Regional Reference Hospital (Tanzania)  
with the participation of 16 surgeons from 7 different nationalities as well as  
for the first time a team of exclusively African trainers graduated from COSECSA.  
(from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2019)**

**an advanced course held at the Kiruddu National Reference Hospital (Uganda)  
which brought together 8 surgeons in the process of specialized training in  
reconstructive surgery with COSECSA from four countries.  
(from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2019)**

A total of 62 surgeons were invited to acquire basic and advanced techniques in reconstructive surgery. They were trained in the broader concept of perioperative safety with basic knowledge of anesthesia, the use of the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist, and the management of postoperative pain. The theoretical evaluations carried out at the end of the course showed encouraging progress in the skills acquired.

At the end of 2019, 5 new surgeons (Kenya and Ethiopia) have successfully passed their examinations in plastic surgery from COSECSA, thanks to the support of 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE. By the end of the year, the region has a total of 21 surgeons who specialized in reconstructive surgery in the region, 9 of whom are women.



## THE THYROID PROJECT IN EASTERN CONGO DRC

Since 2018, a second phase of the project carried out with the support of Congolese surgeons (trained during phase 1), has enabled the training of 4 new surgeons working in various regions (North Kivu, Ituri, Orientale Province and Tshopo).

A total of 12 missions were carried out as part of the goiter project from January 2018 to December 2019.

In 2019, there were 6 training missions of thyroid surgery in eastern Congo and a total of 72 patients were operated on with a remarkably low rate of post-surgery complications.

- **Mission 2<sup>nd</sup> Training with 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE trainers in Bukavu** (25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2019)
- **Mission 2<sup>nd</sup> Training with 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE trainers in Kisangani - extension to Nebobongo** (7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2019)
- **Project 100 goiters in Isiro** (3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2019)
- **Project 100 goiters in Bunia** (19<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2019)
- **Mission 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE local trainers in Kisangani** (16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2019)
- **Mission 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE trainers in Bujumbura – Burundi** (28<sup>th</sup> of September to 8<sup>th</sup> of October)

The “100 goiters” project began with the aim of a lump sum funding by the Association 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE of CHF 200.- per patient to support the practice of Congolese surgeons between training missions. The goal is to create a regional dynamic to provide the population with better access to goiter surgery in their region. Funding was obtained by private donors. It should be noted that this project is being realized by exclusively trained Congolese surgeons organizing local campaigns.



For the same reasons as in the Ebola crisis, the planned mission to Bukavu was relocated in Bujumbura. Dr. Poussier and Dr. Pelieu completed the first Thyroid surgical mission to Burundi with a team of surgeons from Bukavu and Bujumbura. 10 patients were operated on without complications.

The model applied in the DRC has shown its effectiveness and 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE would like to extend it to Burundi and Cameroon

at the request of local surgical authorities. Nevertheless, it remains important to maintain contact with the DRC, therefore an annual follow up mission is planned over the next two years.

## THE WOMEN'S PROJECT AT HAMLIN HOSPITAL IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Birth is an intense moment for all women, which most often leads to a happy event with the birth of their baby. For the poorest women in remote areas, and when delivery assistance and caesarean section are not always available, childbirth can have dramatic consequences for both mother and child.

She may lose not only her child, but also her perineum, with the creation of fistulas, i.e. abnormal communication between the bladder and/or rectum and vagina; this disaster can also be accompanied by the tearing of the anal sphincter, which no longer manages to fulfill its physiological function.

In 2019, 2 missions were organized at Hamlin Hospital in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of November in Mekele, during which 16 patients, some of them very young, were operated on. For the first time 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance invited a Zambian and Tanzanian surgeon to come and participate in the mission in order to get them to understand the work of the Association and potentially export the training to their structures.

## THE ANESTHESIA PROJECT

2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE is committed to strengthening anesthesia which in Africa is clearly a contributing factor to a high perioperative mortality rate and a limiting factor in the development of surgery. 2<sup>nd</sup> CHANCE is working on different approaches for the training and advocacy of anesthesia in Africa.

- **Specific course to raise awareness of anesthesia and the WHO surgical safety checklist for surgeons participating in all surgical workshops (13 missions)**
- **Systematic support for anesthesia teams during surgical workshops**
- **Specific Anesthesia Workshop at Tumbe Regional Reference Hospital (Tanzania)** (Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 )
- **Collaboration with Lifebox NGOs for the Safer Anesthesia in Eastern Congo project and with Mending faces in El Salvador and the Philippines**

# PROJECT FINANCE SUMMARY

The financing of our projects is distributed globally as follows:

Reconstructive Surgery  
**CHF 300'000.-**

Thyroid project  
**CHF 150'000.-**

"Women" Project  
**CHF 40'000.-**

Anesthesia  
**CHF 30'000.-**

## DONOR THANKS

In the end all this would be impossible without the generous support of those who believe in our projects.

We would especially like to thank :

**The Edmond de Rothschild Foundations**

**The Canton of Geneva**

**The City of Geneva**

**The University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG)**

**Beaulieu Medical Society**

**The Foundation for Anesthesia and Resuscitation**

**Richemont International**

**The Acta Pro Allis Foundation**

And all the private donors who supported the Association in its "Race for Gift" and our concert at Pickwick



FIND US ON OUR NEW WEBSITE  
[WWW.2ND-CHANCE.ORG](http://WWW.2ND-CHANCE.ORG) AND ON FACEBOOK