

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

2nd

CHANCE

E D I T O R I A L

14, they were fourteen young African surgeons, including 6 women, passed their specialization exams of the College of Surgeons of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa in Reconstructive Surgery (COSECSA). We assisted them during their 3-year training. For some of them, we had already supported their trainers ten years ago. For the first time, the number of plastic surgeons certified by COSECSA has increased by 50% in one year.

13, thirteen African trainers joined our teams to lead, supervise and ensure the quality of our training. Their commitment has enabled us to work with complete teams after months of COVID. The support given to anesthesia and nursing staff strengthens pre-operative safety and guarantees better treatment results.

Clearly, there are challenges and issues in ensuring that reconstructive surgery training programs can meet the huge needs for health care workers to manage patients waiting for care.

The consolidation of the COSECSA regional program and the development of a joint program between the French-speaking Diplômes d'Études Supérieures (DES) in West Africa under the aegis of the Western African College of Surgeons (WACS) are the framework for the Association's activities to be continued during the coming months.



RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY
FOR LIFE RECONSTRUCTION

RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

In 2022, we have planned 6 missions to train reconstructive surgery teams in Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Zambia, and Senegal. Unfortunately, the regional dynamics remain complicated in West Africa with the cancelation of the Dakar workshop in November 2022. Indeed, Le Dantec Hospital will be closed and destroyed before being rebuilt in 2023.

We trained 111 people (68 surgeons, 30 anesthetists, 13 operating room nurses),

We performed 88 operations, including 73 children, and thus provided direct care to as many people suffering from war wounds, congenital malformations, or accidents of life.

The mission to Namibia (21-25.02.2022), postponed from 2021 due to COVID, confirmed the willingness of the Namibian Association of Surgeons to push for the development of a reconstructive surgery department in the Oshakati Hospital in the north of the country.

The workshop was an opportunity to support new surgeons in their decision to choose the specialization.

We also facilitated the arrival of an Ethiopian surgeon, whom we helped train at COSECSA and who had fled to the USA due to the conflict in Tigray, and who applied to become head of department at Oshakati.

The Tumbi Referral Hospital in Tanzania welcomed us for the 5th time (14-18.03.2022).

The working conditions on three wards and the large number of patients are ideal conditions for conducting basic courses. Prof. Morten KILDAL from the Department of Plastic Surgery and Burns in Upsalaa, Sweden, conducted the training week in cooperation with Dr. Joachim MEULI from the University Teaching Hospital of Lausanne (CHUV), with whom we have started discussions for a partnership.

We returned to Eldoret Hospital in Kenya (25-29.04.22) after 6 years of absence to strengthen their

commitment to regional training in reconstructive surgery on the continent. The focus of the Association was to support young women who are training in reconstructive surgery.

The resumption of activities in West Africa after two years of COVID was achieved by a mission to the National Orthopedic Hospital in Enugu, Nigeria in November 2021.

We organized our first workshop in a French-speaking country in the region (9-13.05.22). The mission to the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Treichville in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, was a first major turning point in the development of regional training under the aegis of COAC. In addition to the Ivorian surgeons, we invited two surgeons newly enrolled in the DES of reconstructive surgery opening in Dakar (Senegal) in December 2021. The participants also included two Ghanaians and two Nigerians (English-speaking) and one Beninese.

Dr Odry AGBESSI (from Benin) who had participated in several courses between 2013 and 2017 in East Africa completed the team of trainers.



THE “GOITRE” PROJECT IN EASTERN CONGO (DRC) AND BURUNDI



The training of Congolese and Burundian surgeons in goiter surgery has empowered two additional surgeons in Nebobongo in Eastern Congo. Dr Martin MWANDA who participated in the training of 2ndCHANCE in 2015 has now been called upon to conduct thyroid surgery training nationwide to Kinshasa.

Since the mission carried out in Bujumbura (Burundi) in July 2022, during which 8 patients were treated, the team has extended its projection area by transferring its activities to the Second Referral Hospital in Ngozi. The mission conducted in September 2022 made it possible to diagnose some 50 patients and to operate on 22 of them from rural areas where goiters are endemic. An agreement signed at Ngozi Hospital will provide a framework for cooperation over the next 18 months with the medical team that provides care to a population of over 2 million people.

THE “WOMEN” PROJECT IN ETHIOPIA AND TANZANIA

This program, focusing on training in posterior perineal reconstructive surgery for women suffering from recto vaginal fistula or fecal incontinence following traumatic childbirth, has finally resumed after a two-year suspension. With the temporary impossibility of returning to Ethiopia in the context of the war, the Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation Tanzania (CCBRT) hospital in Dar Es Salaam offered to collaborate with 2ndCHANCE to restart the project activities for women.



17 participants (15 Tanzanians and 2 Zambians) not only were exposed to a comprehensive overview of the challenges related to posterior perineal reconstruction surgery but were also able to familiarize themselves with the surgical techniques of reconstruction by performing part of the procedure themselves under supervision. 2ndCHANCE was able to conduct this week of training thanks to Professor Frédéric RIS and Professor Guillaume MEURETTE of the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUCGE)

The selection of the 8 patients and the organization of the surgeries were made by Dr Peter MAJINGE with a particular care to identify the most demonstrative pathologies in relation with the theme of the workshop.

THE “ANESTHESIA” PROJECT

It was systematically pointed out that patient outcome depends not only on surgical skills but also to an equally important extent on the skills of the anesthesia team, the pre- and postoperative nursing team and the revalidation team. This is undoubtedly a neglected part of surgical education and that is why 2ndCHANCE has strongly invested in this area.

We have systematically strengthened issues around suture and ward dressing in workshops' programs and ensured safety and hygiene during operations.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Since 2021, a team of 3 UNIGE students have been conducting a prospective study at Tumbi Hospital in Tanzania between 2020-2022 to analyze the impact of reconstructive surgery on social reintegration in a humanitarian context.

With the possibility of revisiting patients operated on in Tanzania between 6 months and 2 years, they conducted interviews with 100 people. The results show that **96% of the patients operated are satisfied with the results of the surgery** with 100% positive impact on their family life.

These intermediate results show that beyond the functional and plastic aspect, reconstructive surgery can remedy social exclusion resulting from

functional limitations, or socio-cultural norms (superstitions/beliefs).

This work was the subject of two scientific presentations at the HUCGE clinical day and at the Swiss Congress of Plastic Surgery in 2022.

In addition, 4 students from the UNIGE are doing their master's work with 2nd CHANCE on subjects related to surgery in sub-Saharan Africa (impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on reconstructive surgery, outcome of reconstructive surgery during missions). In addition, the study on anesthesia-related morbidity in sub-Saharan Africa is ongoing and will be published soon.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT FINANCES

Thanks to the confidence of our partners during the period of international restrictions, we were able to shift our program calendars and secure continued financial support.

In 2022, we have obtained the financial commitment of the Canton of Geneva for 3 years and developed relationships with new private partners that allow us to cover the operating costs of the organization in 2022 and early 2023.

We have also begun the process of obtaining ZEW0 certification (<https://zewo.ch/fr/>), which will eventually make it easier to raise funds from other donors who require this label.

A separate financial report will be published when the 2022 accounts are reviewed by the external auditor.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Geneva University Hospital (HUG) - The Beaulieu Medical Cooperative Society (SCMB)
The Foundation for Anesthesiology and Resuscitation - The Migros Foundation
The Coromandel Foundation - The towns of Anières and Bellevue
other private Fondations**

And all the private donors and relatives who have continued to support us.



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