



Meeshika, Smile Train, India

G4 Alliance Decennial Report: 10 Years of Impact

THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR SURGICAL, OBSTETRIC, TRAUMA AND ANAESTHESIA CARE (G4 ALLIANCE)

MISSION

To advocate for the neglected surgical patient.

VISION

Universally available, accessible, acceptable and
quality emergency and essential surgical,
obstetric, trauma and anaesthesia care.

A Letter from our Board Chair



The global surgery movement has achieved incredible gains over the last decade. From the landmark Lancet Commission on Global Surgery in 2015, which for the first time called for the provision of quality surgical and anaesthesia care for all, to the unanimous passage of the Emergency, Critical and Operative (ECO) Care World Health Assembly resolution in 2024, the progress in global surgery has been nothing short of remarkable.

Throughout these 10 years, one group has been at the forefront, uniting associations and organizations across continents to advocate for the neglected surgical patient: **the Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anaesthesia Care (G4 Alliance).**

The G4 Alliance began as a coalition of 20 member organizations and has grown rapidly over the years. Now an organization of nearly 80 of the leading nonprofit and corporate entities working in the global surgery space, we are better positioned than ever to realize our mission of ensuring that every individual, regardless of location or circumstance, has access to safe, timely, and affordable surgical and anaesthesia services.

To reach our goals and ensure surgical, obstetric, trauma, and anaesthesia (SOTA) care for the **5 billion people around the world who still lack access**, the G4 Alliance will continue to expand its membership and reach. We will deepen our collaboration with government, policymakers, donors, healthcare providers, academia, and civil society organizations to ensure that surgical care is not just prioritized—but also is wholly transformed.

To this end, the G4 Alliance is excited to spearhead and implement groundbreaking projects, such as the Operative Encounter Registry and Community of Practice—a data-driven, patient-centered tool and collaboration model that has the potential to improve the quality and access to surgical care for millions of patients. We envision healthcare providers across low- and middle-income (LMIC) countries leveraging the Operative Encounter Registry to collect, analyze, and utilize patient data to address surgical care disparities—supported by a virtual community of their peers. The Operative Encounter Registry holds potential for a sustainable model for improving surgical care and strengthening health systems globally.

We're making tremendous progress, but lack of awareness of the need for SOTA care continues to limit our potential impact. While the current membership of the G4 Alliance is strong and growing, additional members that bring new expertise and capabilities are needed, both to enhance the organization's operational strength and to promote its visibility in the global health community.

Finally, to support evidence-based decision making, the G4 Alliance has plans to grow its Community of Practice model, over time gathering and producing a body of implementation knowledge to serve as a hub for data-driven advocacy for global SOTA care.

Through the commitment and passion of our network of members, volunteers, and partners, the G4 Alliance has made incredible strides over the last decade, and I've been honored to serve as its Board Chair for the last two and a half years. Our work is nowhere near finished, but I am confident that this coalition, together with our partners, will ultimately realize our collective vision of ensuring access to **safe, timely, and affordable surgical and anaesthesia services for all.**

The future of global surgery is bright, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together over the next 10 years and beyond, with the G4 Alliance leading the charge.

In good health,

Gail

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gail Rosseau MD".

Gail Rosseau, MD
Chair of the Board, the G4 Alliance
Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Adjunct Professor of Global Neurosurgery, Barrow Neurological Institute

Worldwide,
five billion people
do not have access to safe,
timely and affordable
surgical and anaesthesia
care when needed.¹



Each year,
81 million people
face catastrophic financial
expenditure seeking
necessary surgery
and anaesthesia.¹

Each year,
17 million people
die due to conditions that
could be prevented or
treated with surgery, while
millions more experience
preventable disabilities.¹



Every **\$1** invested in strengthening local
surgical systems has a return on
investment of **\$10** in enhanced health
and economic productivity.²



In 2015, the first full year after the G4 Alliance was launched, key data were released in *The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery* report and *The World Bank Essential Surgery: Disease Control Priorities, Third Edition* report on the state of surgical and anaesthesia care disparities globally. Further, the world's health ministers at the World Health Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on "emergency and essential surgical and anaesthesia care as essential components of Universal Health Coverage."

These milestones were bold actions spurred on by advocates—among them the founding G4 Alliance member organizations and leaders—to expand the focus of global health programs, funding, and attention beyond largely vertical interventions that addressed infectious diseases to health systems strengthening for the provision of comprehensive care. These reports and political commitments identified significant global gaps in access to essential surgical services, including the full spectrum of essential maternal and child health care, trauma care to reduce death and disability from injuries, and treatment of cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Formed in 2014, the G4 Alliance is a coalition of global associations and organizations dedicated to making access to quality, safe, timely, and affordable emergency and essential surgical, obstetric, trauma and anaesthesia (SOTA) care a global health priority and a reality for all. The G4 Alliance has devoted the

last 10 years to driving awareness of gaps in SOTA care access and quality, and advocating for policy change and ambitious resources to strengthen systems for SOTA care, particularly in LMICs.

In 10 years, the G4 Alliance has achieved progress in key areas:

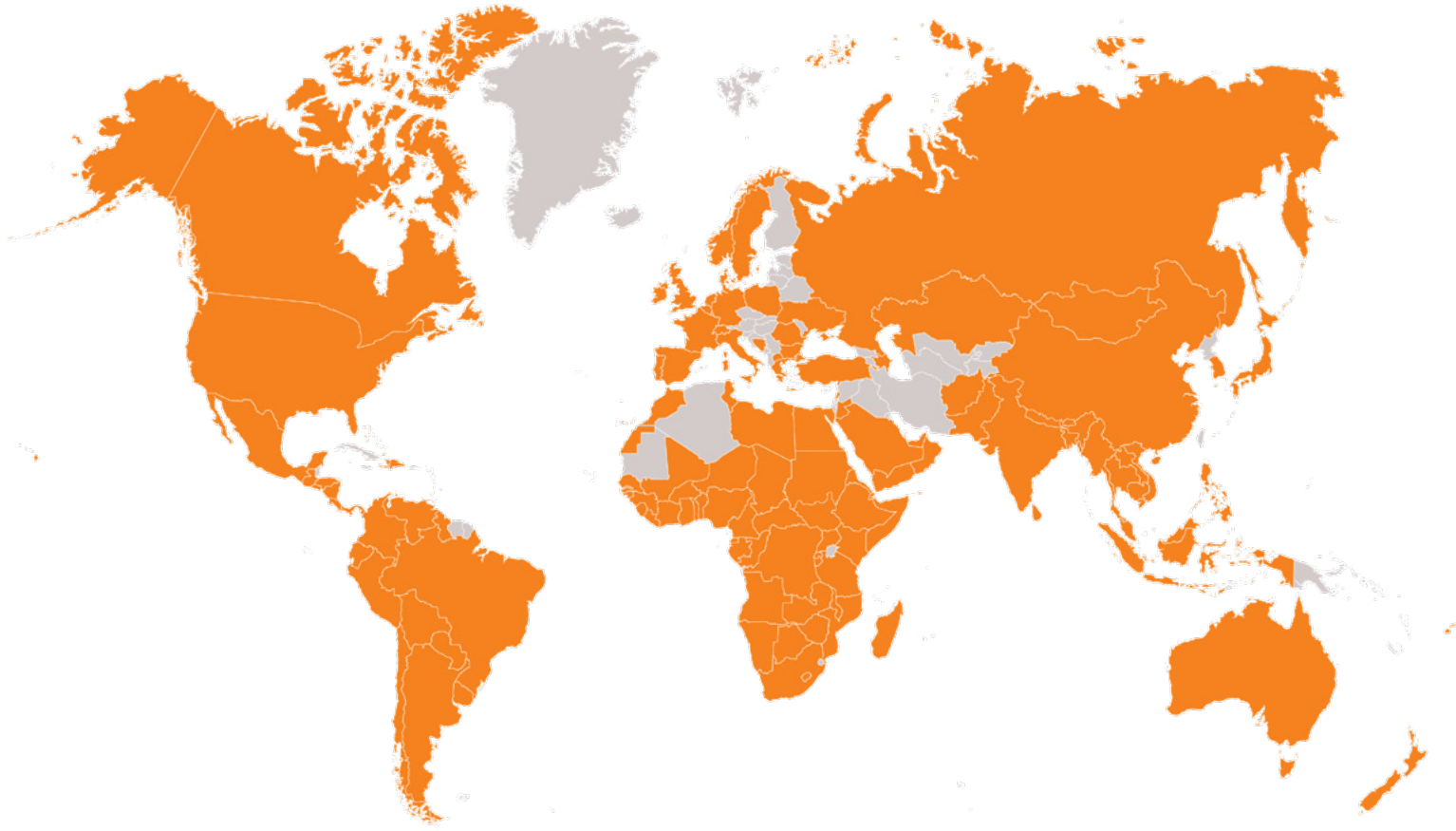
- Global, regional, and national policy commitments to prevent surgical conditions and strengthen health systems
- Research on best practices and technical tools for scaling access and improving quality in SOTA care
- Strategic relationships with the United Nations, World Health Organization, governments, and other non-governmental organizations
- Development of new models for multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration in advocacy and policy implementation
- Cultivation of a diverse and growing community of advocates who collaborate on a shared mission and vision

References

1. Meara JG, Leather AJM, Hagander L, et al. *Global Surgery 2030: Evidence and solutions for achieving health, welfare, and economic development. The Lancet.* 2015;386(9993):569–624. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60160-X

2. *Disease Control Priorities, Third Edition (Volume 1): Essential Surgery.* The World Bank; 2015.

At a Glance:



NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHERE MEMBERS WORK: 130

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS IN MAY 2025: 74

HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TIME FOR G4 ALLIANCE IN 2024: 12,138

**DIRECT DONATIONS AND SUPPORT FROM MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
TO G4 ALLIANCE IN A YEAR: \$73,000**

NUMBER OF G4 ALLIANCE FELLOWS AND INTERNS SINCE 2015: 60+

ADVOCACY EVENTS SINCE 2015: 100+ ACROSS ALL 6 WHO REGIONS

PATIENTS SERVED BY OUR MEMBERS IN 2024 (ESTIMATE): 3.6 MILLION+

PROVIDERS SUPPORTED BY OUR MEMBERS IN 2024: ~200,000

SURGICAL SPECIALTIES REPRESENTED IN OUR NETWORK: 24+

Our Work Over the Last Ten Years

2014, 2015



2014:

(December) G4 Alliance publicly launches with 20 founding member organizations.

2015:

(April) The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery report is [released](#).

(May) World Health Assembly Resolution [68.15](#) on "Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage" – supported by G4 Alliance members and partners – is unanimously approved by 194 World Health Organization (WHO) Member States.

(May) First U.S. Congressional briefing on the global need for surgical care is hosted by the G4 Alliance.

(December) Third G4 Alliance Board meeting is held during the College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA) Conference in Blantyre, Malawi.

2016, 2017



2016:

(May) First-ever G4 Alliance in-person membership meeting is held in Geneva, Switzerland, during the 69th World Health Assembly.

(September) G4 Alliance hosts its first UN General Assembly (UNGA) side event in New York, USA, on surgical care: "Roadmap to 2030: Surgery's Essential Role in Achieving Health for All."



2017:

(May) First G4 Alliance Permanent Council Meeting is held in Geneva during the 70th World Health Assembly.

(December) G4 Alliance co-hosts an official side event of the [Universal Health Coverage Forum](#) in Tokyo, Japan.

2018, 2019



2018:

G4 Alliance launches an advocacy campaign aimed at the US Government around neglected surgical conditions.

(December) G4 Alliance semiannual Permanent Council meeting is held in Virginia Beach, USA, generously hosted by Operation Smile.



2019:

(September) G4 Alliance members and partners successfully advocate for the inclusion of [language](#) on essential surgery in the political declaration at the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, New York, USA.

(November) The G4 Alliance semiannual Permanent Council Meeting is held in Manila, Philippines, generously hosted by the World Surgical Foundation and the Philippine College of Surgeons.

"The emphasis on primary care and improvement in maternal and child survival statistics dominated many global health discussions during the first two decades of this century. The prevalence of non-communicable and chronic diseases and focus on patient-centered care require a different metric and expanded set of partners. G4 Alliance brings those groups together and contributes to an essential discussion which otherwise might not take place."

Ambassador (Ret.) Jimmy Kolker

Member of the G4 Alliance Board of Directors
Ambassador to Burkina Faso (1999–2002)
and Uganda (2002–2005)

2020, 2021



2020:

(March) In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the G4 Alliance shifts to a fully virtual collaboration and convening model, serving as a knowledge hub for surgical and anaesthesia care resources developed by member organizations for pandemic response.

(November) G4 Alliance successfully advocates for inclusion of [language](#) on neglected surgical conditions to be included for the first time in the US Congressional State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs explanatory statement for appropriations to the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

G4 Alliance sponsors two events in the [National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anaesthesia Planning Special Educational Series](#) with the Global Surgery Foundation and the Harvard Medical School Program in Global Surgery and Social Change

2020-2021:

G4 Alliance publishes commentaries in peer-reviewed [literature](#) and influential [global health policy outlets](#) on the role of surgical systems in pandemic preparedness and response.

2021:

G4 Alliance launches Fellowship Program to mentor and support the next generation of global surgery advocates.

(September) G4 Alliance hosts virtual event series during UNGA, "From Pandemic to Progress: Building Capacity through Global Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma and Anaesthesia Systems."

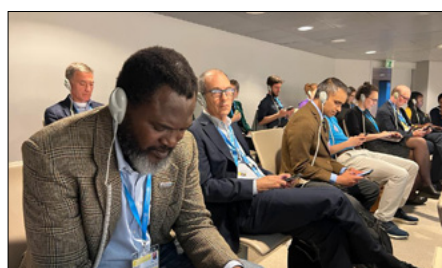
2022, 2023



2022:

(July) G4 Alliance is granted special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council.

(November) G4 Alliance semiannual Permanent Council meeting is held in Dublin, Ireland, generously hosted by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.



2023:

(April) G4 Alliance holds its first side event at the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings on building health systems resilience through surgical and anaesthesia care.

(May) G4 Alliance successfully advocates for the passage of World Health Assembly Resolutions [76.2](#) on integrated emergency, critical and operative care, and [76.19](#) on preventing micronutrient deficiencies through food fortification to reduce neural tube defects.

(November) G4 Alliance semiannual Permanent Council meeting is held in Bauru, Brazil, generously hosted by Smile Train.

2024, 2025



2024:

(May) Inaugural [G4 Alliance Awards](#) granted to Prof. Hadiza Galadanci and Dr. Sengua Koipapi for outstanding organizational leadership and grassroots service delivery in surgical care.

(August) Memorandum of Understanding is [signed](#) between the G4 Alliance and the WHO to launch the Operative Encounter Registry (OER) and support the WHO's technical work on operative care.

(August) G4 Alliance co-hosts a WHO consultation on the global strategy and action plan for emergency, critical, and operative care at the International Society of Surgery conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

(September) G4 Alliance member organizations and the Latin America and Caribbean Working Group successfully advocate for the passage of a [strategy](#) for emergency, critical and operative care at the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas.

(November) G4 Alliance semiannual Permanent Council meeting is held in Peshawar, Pakistan, generously hosted by Northwest School of Medicine.

2025:

G4 Alliance [partners](#) with Project ECHO to launch surgical care data collection, quality improvement, and advocacy hub.

Research, Policy, and Tools for Advocacy

G4 ALLIANCE WORKING GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2015, G4 Alliance member organizations have formed **19 working groups** focused on policy, research, knowledge exchange, and development of technical resources. These working groups support the coordination of the efforts of G4 Alliance members to further their advocacy impact.



The Pioneering Women in Reconstructive Surgery (PWRS) program, a partnership between ReSurge International and SkinCeuticals, a L'Oreal company, to advance first-generation women reconstructive surgeons in low-income countries.

The **International Standards and Guidelines for Quality Safe Surgery and Anaesthesia (ISGQSSA) Working Group** developed the first international consensus recommendations on the prioritization and distribution of surgical care in LMICs. In partnership with the Fijian Ministry of Health, the group used a modified Delphi process to engage 53 experts from 27 LMICs. The resulting 26 consensus statements—published in [BMJ Global Health](#)—offer guidance on decentralization, implementation priorities, and guiding principles for governments and international partners in expanding surgical services. The working group also conducted the largest global surgery systematic review, summarizing more than 40,000 published articles on effective surgical interventions in LMICs, culminating in 11 best practice recommendations for reducing [surgical site infections](#), improving the [quality of trauma systems](#), and reducing maternal and perinatal mortality.

The **G4 Alliance Operative Encounter Registry Working Group** developed the WHO Operative Encounter module under the guidance of the WHO Department for Integrated Health Services Clinical Services and Systems. Through collaboration with partners—including the African Perioperative Research Group, the [College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa](#), the [Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland](#), Stellenbosch University, and the University of Cape Town—and utilizing the Clinical Officer Surgical Training in Africa study and its own Delphi process and pilot, the Working Group provided extensive technical inputs into the development of an operative module on the WHO's free, online, and open-source Clinical Registry platform. Supported by a virtual G4 Alliance Community of Practice, based on the Project ECHO platform, the WHO Operative Encounter module will enable routine surgical case data collection for quality improvement and data-driven advocacy.

In 2020, the **U.S. Government Resource Mobilization Working Group**, under the leadership of the G4 Alliance member [Mobile Surgery International](#), successfully advocated for inclusion of the first-ever language on surgical care in the US Congressional appropriations [explanatory report](#) for the US Agency for International Development (USAID), which recommended the agency prioritize supporting treatment of neglected surgical conditions across LMICs. In 2021 and 2022, the Working Group successfully advocated for expansion of this report language to address the strengthening of surgical systems through national planning. In 2022, a letter of support was signed by 16 U.S. surgical societies, advocating for funding to support the implementation of the report language.

The **Latin America and Caribbean Working Group** promotes knowledge sharing and collaboration among organizations operating in the region, expanding the reach of G4 Alliance advocacy. It has led to the adoption of simultaneous interpretation at G4 Alliance events and the translation of publications and resources, including the Operative Encounter Registry. The Working Group also hosts a monthly webinar series and discussion in Spanish and English, with presenters from G4 Alliance member organizations and guests from regional organizations. In 2024, the working group convened G4 Alliance member organizations as part of an advocacy campaign led by the [Corporación Latinoamericana para la Salud](#), supporting the adoption of a [strategy](#) for emergency, critical, and operative care by the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas.



The **Burns Working Group**, launched in 2022, has led two key initiatives to facilitate collaboration among stakeholders concerned with burn injury to advance global health equity. The working group was instrumental in envisioning and hosting the inaugural [World Burns Week](#) in November 2024, in partnership with a global coalition of regional burn societies, burn survivors, and NGOs. With participation from thousands of individuals across 95 countries, World Burns Week featured daily online events and in-person activities to raise awareness and drive change in burn prevention, treatment, and survivorship. The Working Group also conceptualized the Burns Care Map on [InterSurgeon](#), supported by the International Society for Burn Injuries. The Burns Care Map is a publicly available, interactive global database of health centers, organizations, and institutions focused on burn injuries.

The **Asia Working Group**, started in 2022, has supported by 60+ experts representing organizations across 10+ countries. Members and fellows of the Working Group have articles in peer-reviewed journals focusing on the [roadmap](#) to achieve universal SOTA care in South Asia, [policy prioritization](#) of SOTA care issues in South and Southeast Asia, and successful implementation [case studies](#) for workforce strengthening in Asian LMICs. The Working Group has also highlighted the stories of neglected surgical patients and providers from Asian LMICs in collaboration with the [Association for Socially Applicable Research \(ASAR\)](#) and [Nivarana](#).



Collaboration Models and Platforms



Smile Train CEO Susannah Schaefer and staff welcome G4 Alliance to the Smile Train Cleft Leadership Center at Hospital de Reabilitação de Anomalias Craniofaciais – HRAC-USP (Centrinho Bauru).

BUILDING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY: THE G4 ALLIANCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

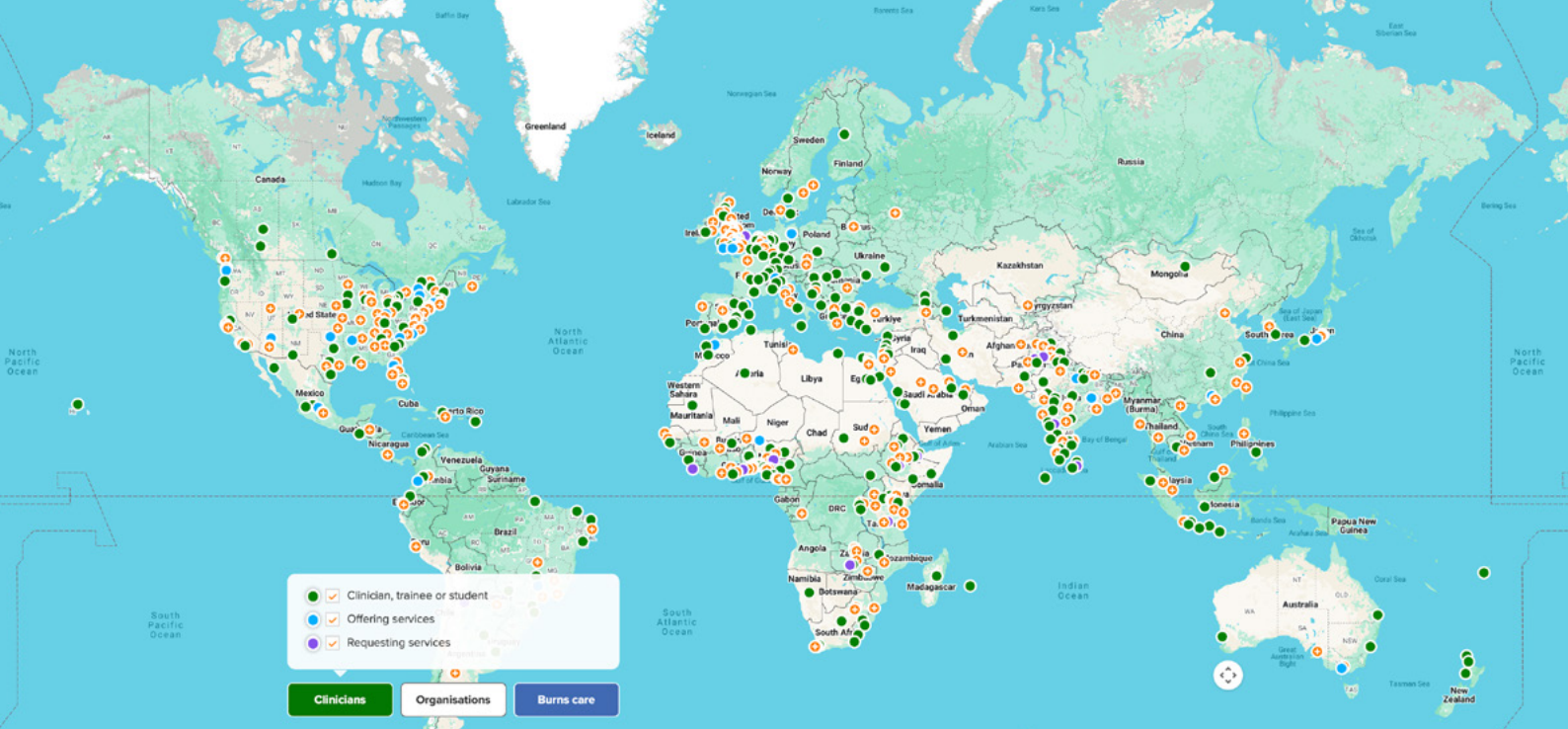
Representatives of the 70+ G4 Alliance member organizations form the Permanent Council. Our Permanent Council gatherings provide unique opportunities for sharing knowledge, coordinating strategy and activities, and building professional relationships. The Permanent Council holds a monthly virtual meeting and two in-person meetings annually. The semiannual meeting held in May, in conjunction with the World Health Assembly, brings together representatives of WHO, national governments, and NGOs to share up-to-date information on health policy priorities and build advocacy skills.

A second membership meeting in November is hosted by a G4 Alliance member organization. These meetings focus on the host country's SOTA care context and priorities. In the last three years, the G4 Alliance membership was hosted in 2024 by [Northwest School of Medicine](#) in Peshawar, Pakistan, in 2023 by [Smile Train](#) and the Cleft Leadership Center Centrinho Bauru, Brazil, and in 2022 by the [Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland](#) in Dublin.

In Dublin, G4 Alliance members engaged with allies in the corporate sector, including innovative companies in surgical equipment and information technology. In 2023, SOTA care experts and government leaders joined the G4 Alliance in Bauru to address the challenges of delivering emergency, critical and operative care for rural and Indigenous populations in Brazil and regionally. The 2024 meeting in Peshawar elevated community engagement and regional ownership in SOTA care, showcasing commitments to advance the National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anaesthesia Plan of Pakistan, hospital-level data collection and quality improvement through the Operative Encounter Registry, and patient-led advocacy initiatives.



Roundtable session on implementing the National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anaesthesia Plan of Pakistan, at the G4 Alliance Permanent Council Meeting hosted by Northwest School of Medicine.



The InterSurgeon collaboration platform has 1,203 individual members, 100 organizational users, and representation from 114 countries.

BRIDGING GAPS IN GLOBAL SURGERY: THE G4 ALLIANCE AND INTERSURGEON

As part of its unique role in convening stakeholders to address systemic gaps in surgical care, the G4 Alliance supported the creation of InterSurgeon—a not-for-profit, free, and sustainable online platform connecting individuals and organizations to foster partnerships in global surgery. InterSurgeon was born from the joint vision of pediatric neurosurgeons William Harkness and James Johnston, with the early endorsement of G4 Alliance member organizations including the [World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies](#) (WFNS) and the [Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery](#) (FIENS), the [University of Alabama at Birmingham](#) (UAB), the [International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons](#) (ISPN), and the [joint pediatric section](#) of American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) / Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS).

To address fragmentation in global surgical collaboration, the G4 Alliance convened a dedicated working group to conceptualize and guide the platform's development. It also provided seed capital and long-term funding to ensure sustainability, while actively promoting InterSurgeon across its global network and the broader public health community.

InterSurgeon introduced a unique “matching” feature that pairs stakeholders based on shared goals, geographic location, and areas of expertise. The platform has since expanded to include modules for all major surgical subspecialties and multidisciplinary team members. Each specialty has designated

“champions” to foster engagement and networking. Innovative offerings—such as free augmented reality software through a partnership with HelpLightning—enhance its capacity for intraoperative collaboration and remote training.

The collaboration between InterSurgeon and the G4 Alliance has enabled continuous feature development and increased user engagement. In 2019, the partnership launched the Organisation Map to support coordination among NGOs and academic departments. InterSurgeon also supports G4 Alliance visibility by prominently displaying its logo and allowing users to tag their G4 Alliance affiliation during registration. As a joint initiative between the International Society for Burn Injuries and the G4 Alliance Burns Working Group, InterSurgeon launched the Burns Care Map, which now includes 164 clinicians, 25 organizations, a dedicated webpage, clinician “champions,” and spotlight features to highlight partner achievements.

InterSurgeon has welcomed more than 12,000 visitors, with more than 1,200 individual members, 100 organizational users, and representation from 114 countries. There are currently 170 active offers and requests, and the platform's matching algorithm has facilitated more than 1,000 collaborations.

Building on this success, the G4 Alliance and InterSurgeon are now developing a new technology platform to support the WHO Operative Encounter module and the G4 Alliance Community of Practice, further advancing data-driven advocacy and partnerships in global surgery.

A Diverse Community

MENDING TOOLS, SAVING LIVES: COLLABORATION FOR SAFER SURGERY

[Safe Surgery Initiative \(SSI\)](#) is a nonprofit organization and a G4 Alliance member that provides on-site surgical instrument refurbishment, capacity building, and education to health facilities in LMICs. Repairing surgical instruments saves money, reduces waste, and improves safety. Unfortunately, training in these technical and clinical skills is often unavailable in LMICs, forcing hospitals to use unsafe surgical equipment, purchase low-quality replacements, or rely on donated equipment.

SSI exemplifies the collaborative spirit of the G4 Alliance with several members taking part, including [ReSurge International](#), [The Operating Room Global \(TORG\)](#), [Ohana One](#), [Mercy Ships](#), [Institute of Global Perioperative Care \(IGPC\)](#), [Smile Train](#), and [CURE International](#). Through these partnerships, SSI has introduced the Surgical Instrument Repair Technician training at hospitals around the world, providing hospitals with skilled technicians who can repair and maintain surgical instrument inventories. Designed by surgical instrument consultants and manufacturing industry leaders, the program provides a comprehensive, hands-on, technical curriculum.

By integrating surgical instrument repair into their programming, SSI and its partners in the G4 Alliance network are enhancing surgical capacity in low-

resource settings by improving patient safety and access to life-saving procedures, advancing medical technology, training healthcare providers, and advocating for policies that support sustainable surgical systems. Through collective action, G4 Alliance members drive transformative change, ensuring that millions of people, particularly in underserved communities, receive the essential surgical care they need.

HEALING BORDERS: POLICY AND PROGRESS IN LATIN AMERICA

In May 2004, [Operation Smile](#) International and the Operation Smile Ecuador Foundation, in collaboration with the [Latin American Health Corporation](#) and with the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the G4 Alliance, hosted the Second Symposium on Public Policies and Advocacy. Held in Quito, Ecuador, the symposium marked a milestone in advancing equitable access to SOTA care in Latin America's border regions. The Symposium brought together more than 50 policymakers, global health leaders, civil society representatives, and affected community members from across the region. Participants shared how limited access to essential surgical and obstetric care affects their lives, emphasizing the urgent need for policies that address these gaps, transforming data on health inequities through their lived experiences.



Attendees of the Second Symposium on Public Policies and Advocacy, hosted by Operation Smile and Corporación Latinoamericana para la Salud in Quito, Ecuador.

Collaboration between the Latin American Health Corporation and Operation Smile played a crucial role in shaping discussions on equity and sustainability. By uniting local and global stakeholders, the Symposium moved beyond theoretical debates to drive concrete action toward strengthening health systems. The event reaffirmed the importance of creating spaces where communities are not just beneficiaries but active voices in shaping policies that promote inclusive and sustainable healthcare solutions. Operation Smile is working with PAHO to coordinate and collaborate and improve the provision of health services, integrating the surgical services for children with cleft lip and palate and the extramural health brigades that PAHO conducts in remote, rural communities.

This partnership has improved resource utilization, expanded the reach of both organizations, and benefited patients who can receive additional services, including pre-surgical assessments and dental services. The model also facilitates patient monitoring through local public health service providers and improves access in remote populations, including indigenous and vulnerable communities. This model has been piloted and evaluated, and can serve as a model in other countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region and beyond.

MAINTAINING MOMENTUM: ENSURING SAFE SURGERY IN FAMILY PLANNING AND OBSTETRICS

[MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics](#), launched in 2020, was the first initiative supported by USAID focusing specifically on safe surgery ecosystems across multiple interventions, focusing on surgical obstetrics, fistula care, and family planning. MOMENTUM Safe Surgery was led by G4 Alliance member [EngenderHealth](#) with implementing partners including IntraHealth International, the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

MOMENTUM Safe Surgery developed a framework for surgical systems strengthening that focused on the patient's journey to, through, and after surgical care and developed a global learning agenda identifying priority gaps in knowledge for safe surgery in family planning, fistula, and maternal health. The project worked in 11 countries: Benin, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, India, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal. [Jhpiego](#), also a G4 Alliance member, was a subcontractor on the project in Madagascar. During four years, MOMENTUM Safe Surgery trained more than 9,360 facility-based health providers and more than 78,000 community health workers, supported 3,620 fistula repairs, and collaborated with partners to update and improve



ReSurge International Surgical Instrument Refurbishment Training of Trainers Program in Nepal.

"The G4 Alliance allows us to sit shoulder to shoulder with like-minded groups and people, as well as allowing collaboration outside of our expertise, to help fill in and foster our goals."

Dr. Andre Ivy
Orthopedic Surgeon and Founder
Handzania

curricula, job aids, and expand facility capacity to deliver safe surgical care. One measure of the project's impact is that maternal mortality at facilities supported by the project declined by 65 percent.

MOMENTUM Safe Surgery was among the thousands of U.S. government-supported programs terminated in early 2025. Despite this untimely end, many of the clinical innovations, strengthened facilities, and trained providers supported by the program will continue to enable the provision of better surgical care across Africa and India. Reflecting on the project, MOMENTUM Safe Surgery's Director, Vandana Tripathi, noted, "This project was a first opportunity to break silos and connect health issues affecting women and newborns that require surgical interventions. We had seen, for example, that iatrogenic fistula was rising in many countries – this was directly related to the fact that the volume of cesarean delivery was increasing rapidly in LMICs, without commensurate increases in the surgical teams, operating theaters, and other key inputs required for safe surgery. Through MOMENTUM Safe Surgery, we were able to work on these issues in a coordinated way, reducing the burden of preventable morbidity and mortality and increasing access to quality surgical care in low-resource settings."



THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL SURGERY: THE G4 ALLIANCE'S INDISPENSABLE ROLE

Since its inception, the G4 Alliance has worked tirelessly to elevate surgical care on the global stage. Thanks to the efforts of the members and partners of the G4 Alliance, global surgery is no longer perceived as the "neglected stepchild of global health" that it once was. Policymakers at the highest levels recognize that to achieve ambitious global health goals such as universal health coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), surgery can no longer be relegated to the periphery of critical global and national health policy and health systems strengthening efforts, but rather must be integrated throughout.

The MOU signed between the G4 Alliance and the WHO in August 2024 is a testament to what is possible with a unified and coordinated approach to advocacy and policy implementation. Aimed at enhancing collaboration and cooperation to improve integrated emergency, critical, and operative care in LMICs, this agreement marks a significant step forward towards achieving UHC and ensuring safe surgical care access for all. It also builds on the impressive legacy of the G4 Alliance over the past decade and lays the groundwork for the ambitious advocacy agenda the G4 Alliance has set for the future.

THE OPERATIVE ENCOUNTER REGISTRY: POWERING A DATA-DRIVEN FUTURE

Developed with technical support by the G4 Alliance under WHO guidance, the Operative Encounter Registry (the Operative Encounter module of the WHO Clinical Registry) is the first-ever free, digital, and global platform for routine data collection on operative care. The Operative Encounter Registry aims to address widespread data gaps, particularly in LMICs where data on surgical needs, capacity, and outcomes are scarce, making it challenging to identify and address access and quality issues. The Operative Encounter Registry empowers healthcare providers to collect standardized data on surgical procedures, which can be used to inform decision making in a hospital or across a health system. This patient-centered, data-driven, and locally led approach will generate new insights into persistent surgical care challenges, allowing for targeted quality improvement, efficient resource allocation, and advocacy for systems-level change. In short, the Operative Encounter Registry promises to transform surgical care through the power of data.

[Project ECHO](#), a program with more than 20 years of experience creating virtual learning communities for health, is partnering with the G4 Alliance to establish a Community of Practice comprised of surgical

care specialists, researchers, and representatives of international professional societies, NGOs, and corporations. The Operative Encounter Registry and the Community of Practice work together to turn surgical data into action. As hospitals implement the Operative Encounter Registry, the Community of Practice helps to sustain and scale impact by offering support, sharing tools, and encouraging peer-to-peer learning and innovation. This collaboration empowers hospitals to improve the quality of care and expand access to surgical services where they're needed most.

By empowering surgical care providers and supporting data-driven improvement, this initiative lays a critical foundation for improving the quality of care and expanding access for millions of patients.

"The G4 Alliance is the first of its kind to fill the SOTA gap in public health and it is also in a class of its own—advocacy."

Dr. Bisola Onajin-Obembe

Immediate Past President of the Permanent Council and Representative of the Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists

G4 Alliance: The Global Leader in Advocating for SOTA Care Improvement



This Operative Encounter Registry and Community of Practice will leverage our decade of experience coordinating a virtual coalition, our network of member organizations, and additional key partnerships. Over time, this program will gather and produce a body of implementation knowledge and become a hub for data-driven advocacy for global SOTA care.



Operation Smile screening day in Marrakesh, Morocco.

FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

There has been an acceleration of awareness in the last 10 years about the need, gap, and capacity for SOTA care, driven by the united civil society voice that the G4 Alliance has brought to the global agenda. However, misconceptions about the need and cost of surgical care still pose challenges to financing essential surgical care across LMICs.

To meet this complex call to action, the G4 Alliance is fully committed to expanding global consciousness about surgical care access gaps. The G4 Alliance will continue to engage in targeted, evidence-based advocacy, strengthened by data collected in the Operative Encounter Registry and quality improvement projects implemented by the Community of Practice. This will enable the network of G4 Alliance members and partners to make a powerful case to ministries of health and ministries of finance about the burden of surgical disease while demonstrating the economic and societal benefits—from reduced disability and death to increased productivity—of investing in surgical care.

Strategically communicating evidence and opportunities through social media, at international fora and conferences, and in partnership with other global health organizations raises awareness among key stakeholders about the 5 billion people who still

lack access to basic surgical care. But it will take more than just awareness-raising efforts to effect the most pressing policy changes needed to ensure universal access to safe surgery worldwide.

To truly transform policy and drive systemic change, the G4 Alliance aims to influence national health policies across LMICs in regions where the need is greatest, namely in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Western Pacific. Formal commitments are critical by governments to invest in SOTA care as essential public health priorities. Surgical care must not only be recognized in national surgical plans but implemented as national policy, creating a sustainable model that will endure long into the future.

"The G4 Alliance provides an invaluable platform for global advocacy, technical collaboration, and policy influence that strengthens our regional efforts. Its collective voice amplifies our initiatives, connects us with like-minded partners, and enhances our capacity to translate local needs into global action."

María José García
Executive Director
Corporación Latinoamericana para la Salud

MAKING THE GLOBAL SURGERY 'BIG TENT' EVEN BIGGER

One of the core strengths of the G4 Alliance has been the sustained commitment of its members, its engaged Board of Directors, and a devoted permanent staff, all of whom have been integral to the success of its ongoing advocacy and strategic initiatives. The G4 Alliance has also been deliberate about collaborating with other global health and global surgery actors and international organizations like the WHO, amplifying its influence on the global stage. As the only global coalition specifically focused on advocacy for SOTA care, it occupies a crucial position in the global health ecosystem.

Forging a truly global community for SOTA care will require bringing on additional members, especially organizations that have the potential to strengthen the G4 Alliance's operational stability, improve expertise and capabilities, and expand its network of key stakeholders in global health—beyond SOTA care. The G4 Alliance welcomed its first for-profit members in 2024, [Butterfly Network Inc.](#) and [Corvent Medical](#),

"The amount of work each organization undertakes is already colossal, but the needs are greater than any single one of us. We know our voice will be stronger, more representative, and impactful as we join efforts."

Dr. Ruben Ayala

Past President of the Permanent Council
and Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer
Operation Smile

marking a significant milestone in the organization's mission to drive transformative change in global health.

These new members reflect the G4 Alliance's commitment to fostering diverse partnerships and innovative solutions to address the global surgical care crisis. Leveraging the unique expertise of the private sector and other global health communities—including maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, noncommunicable diseases, and neglected tropical diseases—will accelerate efforts to effect meaningful change and create a world in which surgical care is universally accessible and equitable, especially for neglected patients in LMICs.



G4 Alliance at the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

Conclusion

When the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery released its landmark report almost 10 years ago—and unveiled for the first time the staggering statistic that more than **5 billion people around the world lack access to safe, timely, and affordable surgical and anaesthesia services**—it may have felt to many that closing that gap would be an insurmountable feat. But, like many past global challenges, from putting a man on the moon in 1969 to developing a vaccine for COVID-19 in just nine months, we have learned that when the expertise and resources of a collective are harnessed toward achieving a common good, we can render the impossible possible.

This 'moonshot' mentality has always been a driving force of the G4 Alliance. We have proven time and again that when faced with seemingly impossible challenges, from being tasked with advocating for historic resolutions to strengthen emergency and essential surgical care to forging groundbreaking partnerships with multilateral institutions to improve health outcomes for underserved populations in LMICs, this community does not shy away from the hard work; the G4 Alliance embraces the challenge.

In the immortal words of former U.S. President John F. Kennedy, we choose to advocate for the neglected surgical patient **"not because [it is] easy, but because [it is] hard."**

Nowhere is this more evident than in the transformative project the G4 Alliance is undertaking with the WHO and other partners to improve SOTA care in LMICs: the Operative Encounter Registry and the supporting Community of Practice.

By leveraging data for action, the Operative Encounter Registry and the Community of Practice can turn the ambition of access to quality surgical care into a reality for millions of people in LMICs.

The global surgical movement has not made its proverbial moon landing yet, but we're moving in the right direction together. With the G4 Alliance entering its 10th year stronger than ever, a future where high-quality, affordable surgical care is available to everyone everywhere no longer seems far off, but very much within reach.

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The G4 Alliance thanks its dedicated Current and Emeritus Board Members:

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