



THE  
**GLOBAL  
SURGERY**  
FOUNDATION

# Bi-annual report 2021-22





To our founding members, partners and friends:

Our sincere thanks for your continued support  
as we work together to meet one  
of the greatest needs in global health.

Our special thanks goes to  
our Founding Partners



PROGRAM IN GLOBAL SURGERY  
AND SOCIAL CHANGE  
Harvard Medical School

and to our Strategic Partner



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## Letter from leadership

Over the past two years as the world slowly recovered from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has come to the harsh realization that without strong and resilient health systems, entire countries will come to a grinding halt in the face of an overwhelming health emergency. Sadly, we saw our progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) stall and even regress during these unprecedented COVID-19 years. However, the toughest challenges can also teach us the most important lessons. An important lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic is that we can no longer compromise on the issue of equity in global health.

It is with this lesson reinforced, that the team at the Global Surgery Foundation (GSF) resolved to push forward in making a difference in one of the most inequitable areas of global health – that is – access to safe and affordable surgical care, which is lacking in so many countries and for billions of individuals worldwide.

Despite the global challenges in 2021 and 2022 due to the pandemic, the GSF has made huge strides forward in achieving our vision to bring equity to those parts of the world where surgical care is still not easily accessible. To start, we are very pleased to announce that in October 2021, the GSF was officially registered as a Swiss Foundation under the Swiss regulatory authorities in Geneva. While maintaining close partnership ties with UNITAR, we continued to grow our capacity to support implementing partners on the frontlines – and shifting the focus from growing the GSF as an organization to supporting implementation.

During the rapid growth phase over the past two years, there are many individuals and organizations that have participated in and supported the GSF. Of particular note is the commitment of our Organizational Founding Partner, Smile Train, which graciously supported the process to register the GSF as a Swiss Foundation. Their support demonstrates the broader commitment Smile Train is making to global surgery and health system strengthening - and we are very grateful for their partnership moving forward. It is partnerships like these that will unify the global surgery community and help us achieve our common goals in improving access to care.

Over the past six years, we have seen the Global Surgery Foundation move from being just an idea, to an exciting initiative incubated within the UN system with UNITAR, to emerge as an independent international organization. The GSF is ready to make major impact where it is most needed. From the beginning, we have emphasized the importance of partnerships and we continue to hold this principle as one of our most important core values. Achieving impact on the frontlines is only going to happen if we work together and build strong inclusive partnerships.

On behalf of the entire GSF team, we would like to thank everyone involved in making the “idea” of the GSF a reality. As we now enter the next exciting growth phase for the GSF, we invite all stakeholders in Global Health to join us in supporting our colleagues on the frontlines and bring equity to health care by improving access to effective surgical care systems worldwide.

Thank you.



Prof. Rifat Atun  
President, GSF




Dr. Geoff Ibbotson  
Executive Director, GSF





# Our team

## Foundation Board



Prof. Rifat Atun



Dr. Phumzile  
Mlambo-Ngcuka



Mr. John Cross

## Founding Leadership Team



Prof. Adrian  
Gelb



Dr. Walt  
Johnson



Dr. Bhagawan  
Koirala



Dr. Emmanuel  
Makasa



Prof. Salome  
Maswime



Prof. John  
Meara



Dr. Kee  
Park



Dr. Lubna  
Samad



Ms. Erin  
Stieber

## Secretariat



Mrs. Nefti  
Bempong-Ahun  
Project Manager



Dr. Irum  
Fatima  
Based at IRD Pakistan



Dr. Yukiko  
Fujino  
Senior Advisor



Mr. Sebastian  
Hofbauer  
Programme Manager



Dr. Geoff  
Ibbotson  
Executive Director



Ms. Anastasia  
Parisi  
Operations Intern



Mr. Jan  
Plavcan  
Partnerships



Dr. John E.  
Varallo  
Team Lead, Women's Health



Ms. Francesca  
Vitucci  
Project Manager



Dr. Hira Khalid  
Zuberi  
Based at IRD Pakistan

## Current academic Fellows



**Ms. Arushi Biswas**  
Based at Johns Hopkins University



**Dr. Jennifer Hon**  
Based at PGSSC, Harvard University



**Mr. Papa Kwadwo Morgan-Asiedu**  
Based at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine/Harvard University



**Ms. Karina Olivo**  
Based at Montreal Children's Hospital



**Dr. Christina Schweitzer**  
Based at Harvard University



**Ms. Rachel E. Wittenberg**  
Based at Harvard University

## Advisors



**Dr. Scott Corlew**



**Dr. Anam Noor Ehsan**



**Dr. Benjamin Gold**



**Dr. Isioma Okolo**



**Dr. Tom Randall**



**Dr. Kavitha Ranganathan**



**Dr. Ché L. Reddy**



**Dr. Matthias Rüger**



**Prof. Mark Shrime**



**Dr. Dominique Vervoort**

## Goodwill Ambassador



**Ms. Shudufhadzo Musida**  
Goodwill Ambassador

Meet the team at  
[www.globalsurgeryfoundation.org/who](http://www.globalsurgeryfoundation.org/who)



# 2021-22 report



# Highlighted activities

## Successful trial of SURGfund with frontline impact

One of GSF's key missions is to provide catalytic funding. Throughout 2021-22, the GSF worked with leading experts to develop the concept for SURGfund. It was then beta-tested with selected projects and the lessons learned informed the further development of SURGfund.

### Reducing injury morbidity and mortality in Kenya



The GSF provided funding and support for a project led by the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS) aimed at reducing injury morbidity and mortality in Kenya. The support enabled the digitization and implementation of the Trauma Team Training (TTT) Programme. The content targets the care of trauma patients in under-resourced facilities. It was selected by the Violence and Injury Prevention (VIP) Division, Department of Non-Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Health Kenya because they consider trauma a priority and see the TTT program as appropriate for under-resourced settings and a means to address training gaps identified in their clinical associates.

A total of 24 teams and 138 health professionals were trained through a provider course and 22 trainers were trained through an instructor course.

The project design assures capacity to sustain the program within Kenya as local instructors are trained, necessary pedagogic equipment is supplied, access to digital resources is facilitated and a trauma registry is implemented.

### Building Bridges for Broken Bones in Tanzania



The GSF provided programmatic and financial support for the implementation of the project "Building Bridges for Broken Bones: Providing adequate treatment for extremity fracture patients in rural Tanzania". The project aims to augment the existing knowledge of traditional bone setters (TBSs) and establish a collaborative triage & treatment protocol involving both TBSs and hospital staff, to provide conservative and local treatment where possible, and surgical treatment at the hospital when needed. This collaborative relationship with the TBSs enables the hospital staff to reach deep into the remote communities to ensure better access to the care needed.

The GSF's support is enabling local partners to improve outcomes for fracture patients in those areas where access to orthopaedic care is severely lacking, as well as strengthening the surgical workforce.

This project fits very well into the concept of the Collaborative Research Hub model and demonstrates a multi-partner approach to supporting frontline researcher in remote settings. We hope to expand more similar opportunities following the successful example of the Shirati partnership.

More information about the project is available [here](#).

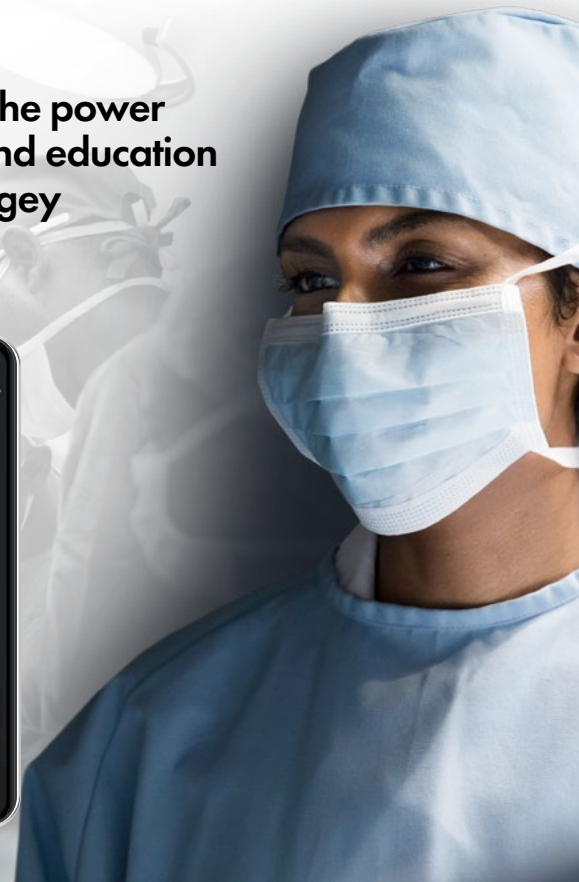
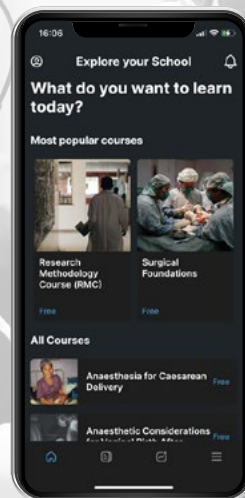
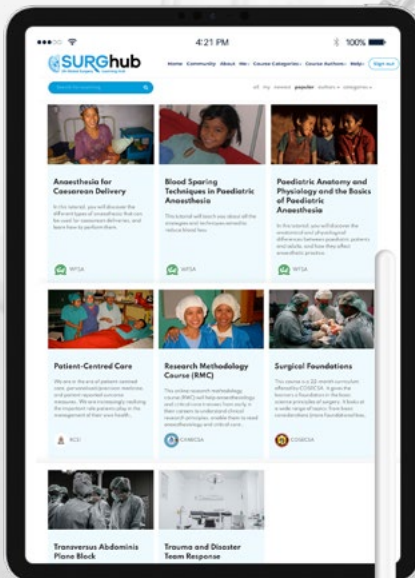
*"The access to the GSF network has turned our project from an idea into a full-fledged line of research - one that now also has financial backing from GSF to ensure its realisation."*

— Dr Joost Binnerts, Shirati Foundation

## Developed the United Nations Global Surgery Learning Hub



Unleashing the power of training and education in global surgery



Under the mandate of the United Nations Training and Research Institute (UNITAR) and in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), the GSF is leading the creation of the UN Global Surgery Learning Hub (SURGhub). In association with the Johnson & Johnson Foundation, SURGhub aims at improving and expanding the delivery of much needed surgical care in low resource contexts through facilitating access to relevant and high-quality training resources. SURGhub is a convenient, open-access repository of curated courses and

training resources, which aims at responding to the learning needs of frontline workers, with a focus on four medical specialties: surgery, anaesthesia, gynaecology & obstetrics, and perioperative nursing. By the end of 2022, the Project Team has selected 140 training resources and actively engaged with 37 partners. SURGhub's governance is ensured by three committees: the Project Scope Committee, the Content Committee and the Technical Committees. The 26 Committee members are representatives of diverse global surgery institutions world-wide.

[Learn more about SURGhub here](#)

## High-value Surgical Systems course in partnership with Harvard

The High-value Surgical Systems Program (“the Program”) was the inaugural iteration of a three-day executive education program. The in-person programme was held on the campus at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health in Boston, USA, with a synchronous online option via Zoom. The Program was designed to provide the necessary skills to senior professionals and policy makers to address the major challenges in surgical health care and the design of surgical care systems.

The GSF and UNITAR organised the course in collaboration with Harvard T.H. Chan’s Executive and Continuing Professional Education (ECPE).

Following a rigorous selection process from more than 170 applications, 21 participants were selected to join the Program in person and a further 6 joined online, representing 18 countries. The teaching faculty included 12 speakers, specially selected as experts in their field.

The post-course overall evaluation was 4.96 out of 5, placing it as the highest ranked course of all the executive education courses offered at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

More information and the program report are available [here](#).

We would like to recognise the leadership of Takeda Pharmaceuticals. Their financial support and participation was critically important to the success of this Program.



## World Health Assembly 2022 side event: Global surgery financing as a top priority of the global health agenda

The Global Surgery Foundation hosted a side event at the 75th World Health Assembly on 23 May 2022 in Geneva, entitled **Strengthening Health Systems through upscaling Surgical Care: Overcoming the Final Hurdle: Sustainable Financing**.

The event brought together high-level leaders from member states, United Nations, academia, civil society, and industry in a discussion panel with a subsequent networking forum. The event reached a total of 533 participants (202 participants in-person). 8 member states co-sponsored the event.

The event made a clear case how surgical care systems are key for UHC and health system strengthening, and how sustainable financing is urgently needed in this space. The campaign surrounding the event reached #3 of global influencers on Twitter following the World Health Organization and its Director-General, Dr. Tedros. The event was also ranked as the best attended and energetic of the WHA.

The GSF committed to leverage the strong momentum by working directly with countries and partners to build strong and resilient health systems through upscaling surgical care.

The event report and recording are available [here](#).



## Supporting the Ministries of Health in Rwanda and Zambia on surgical capacity building in cervical cancer

In collaboration with the Ministries of Health and the WHO's Global Strategy for Cervical Cancer Elimination, GSF worked with frontline stakeholders to develop a project focused on increasing surgical care for cervical cancer via a surgical system strengthening approach. This project is a two-phase strategic plan with

Phase I using each country's National Surgical Plan as a vehicle for capacity building for the surgical care for Cervical Cancer. The activities are ongoing.

## Supporting the Ministry of Health in Rwanda to establish a Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship

The Rwanda Gynaecologic Oncology Fellowship Working Group was launched in December 2021, with GSF acting as the convening platform to coordinate support for the development of an accredited Fellowship programme in Gynaecology Oncology to be based at the University of Rwanda. The working group is a peer-to-peer network of clinicians, co-chaired by a representative from the Ministry of Health in Rwanda and a representative from the consortium of international organisations.

Working Group focused on supporting the Ministry of Health's plans for upscaling their GynOnc fellowship program. The Working Group brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including the leading academic centres, NGOs and agencies working on GynOnc training. Out of this working group, the fellowship was able to move forward with several initiatives for supporting the training.

## Supporting the Ministry of Health in Nepal to prepare a National Surgical Plan

The GSF co-hosted a 4 day hybrid National Surgical Obstetric Anesthesia Planning (NSOAP) Orientation event with the Nepal ministry from 19-22 July 2022 as an important milestone in a roadmap towards formulating an NSOAP for Nepal, along with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Nick Simons Institute (NSI), and Harvard Medical School Program in Global Surgery and Social Change (PGSSC).

The main objective of the NSOAP Orientation event was to familiarize all major stakeholders with the NSOAP initiative and align them towards the common goal of starting the process of developing an NSOAP unique for Nepal. The series of meetings included key actors from various sectors, including Federal/ Provincial Government, Academia, Professional Societies, Private Sector and Donor Agencies.

The event led to the creation of technical working group led by the MoHP of Nepal to conceptualize the first (and subsequent) phase(s) of the NSOAP development and implementation. The Nepal MoHP requested that the GSF and UNITAR continue to support his process and the working group along with their partner PGSSC.

More information is available [here](#).



## Supporting the Ministry of Health in Pakistan to launch its National Surgical Plan



Dr. Faisal Sultan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health, Pakistan addresses the audience.

After careful evaluation and approval by the Pakistan's Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination ("the Ministry"), Pakistan's surgical plan, entitled National Vision for Surgical Care (NVSC) 2020-25, was formally launched at an event in Islamabad on 12 July 2021. The event was jointly hosted by the GSF, the Pakistan Ministry, and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), with the support of Harvard's Program in Global Surgery and Social Change, and Indus Hospital & Health Network (IH&HN). The event included broad participation with high level government representation as well as a broad range of experts and donors.

Participants agreed on the urgent need to translate NVSC into an actionable plan to upscale surgical care as a pathway towards achieving Universal Health Coverage, and offered full support to achieve this goal. Key results included (1) the Official recognition of NVSC 2025 as a key strategic document and an addendum to NHV; (2) NVSC to guide surgical care strengthening in Pakistan through the implementation of Essential Package of Health Services as a part UHC-BP developed for Pakistan; (3) a call to action by MoNHRS&C leadership to prioritize implementation of NVSC; and (4) a clear call to action to major funding agencies for engagement in funding the implementation of the plan.

More information is available [here](#).

## Successfully completed phase 1 of the Value-Based Healthcare project in South Africa, Turkey, and Rwanda

The goal for the Phase I was to formally launch the project, engage stakeholders, and to prepare for country-level implementation of value-based healthcare in later project phases. Phase I has been completed successfully and key outcomes included hosting a webinar on Breast Cancer to build broader stakeholder engagement, which was attended by a total of 227 participants. Another key outcome was to establish country-level readiness for

implementation, which included generating buy-in from selected target countries through diplomatic channels. The final output resulted in being assigned focal points from the South African Department of Health, as well as the Turkish Ministry of Health and Turkish Ministry of Treasury and Finance to be represented in technical working groups for subsequent phases.

## Launch of the Value-Based Healthcare Hub

**High-level launch event:**  
**Value-based healthcare platform**

**23 November 2021**  
15:00-16:30 (CET)

**Register now!**

Optimising investment into healthcare systems through patient-centered outcome measurements in middle-income and low resource settings

**CREATING VALUE FOR THE PATIENT**

value-based healthcare-un.org

Patient engagement

Sharing patient reported outcome measurements with healthcare providers allows the greatest chance to become accountable to support decision-making in clinical practice.

Local ownership

UNITAR  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Takeda

THE GLOBAL SURGERY FOUNDATION

Value-based healthcare (VBHC) aims to standardize healthcare processes by collecting data and evidence to determine how to achieve the best outcome for patients, while doing so at the most reasonable cost. As such, inclusion of patient-reported data is integral to establishing the VBHC model, as well as the measurement of costs.

This project, managed by the GSF and UNITAR and supported by Takeda, aims to facilitate locally-led initiatives that will promote and advance the implementation of VBHC models in targeted countries, led by frontline implementers and developed in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, academic

leaders, academic institutions and professional societies, industry, civil society, and, most importantly, patients. Phase 1 of the project focused on the formal project launch and virtual establishment of the project, including the engagement of VBHC stakeholders within the project scope. The first version of the [VBHC Hub](#) was launched to serve as a common point of reference for all stakeholders of the project, with the main purpose of documenting information relevant to the pilot projects in the initial target countries. The GSF hosted an official event to launch the platform. More information is available [here](#) and the hub can be visited [here](#).

Phase 2 of the VBHC project was initiated in 2023.

## Learning Series on the National Surgical, Obstetrics and Anaesthesia Planning process

The official manual for National Surgery, Obstetrics and Anaesthesia Planning (NSOAP) was published by UNITAR in collaboration with the Harvard Program in Global Surgery and Social Change and the GSF ([free download here](#)). The official publication launch was conducted in 2020-2021 with a 7-event series. The final event took place on 13 January 2021: Adopting a pragmatic lens - Five simple steps for every health managers to improve facility efficiency on Monday morning.

The event included the following learning objectives:

1. List the key steps to starting the NSOAP process.
2. List the resources available for technical assistance in the NSOAP planning process.
3. Explain how to conduct a surgical anaesthesia and obstetrics needs assessment.
4. Understand how to approach the Ministry of Health and local stakeholders to initiate the NSOAP process.



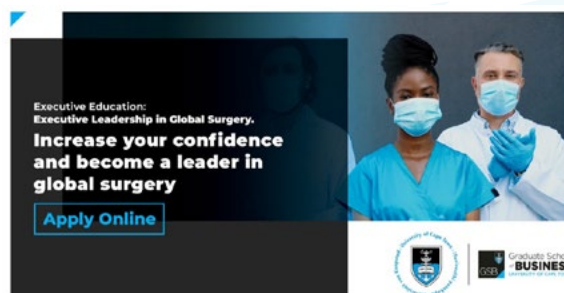
In total, the NSOAP Series reached 3,129 beneficiaries from 102 countries. To date, the NSOAP Manual has been downloaded over 1,400 times. The event recording can be accessed here: [www.globalsurgeryfoundation.org/events/nsoap-series](http://www.globalsurgeryfoundation.org/events/nsoap-series)

## Supported the development of an Executive Leadership Course in Global Surgery in South Africa

The GSF partnered with the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business and the Division of Global Surgery in the creation of the “Executive Leadership in Global Surgery Course”.

The course aims to enable leaders in healthcare in the public, private and voluntary sectors to become change agents within their context. Participants will be taught to design and lead evidence-based projects and programmes that improve surgical outcomes in their respective organisations, and countries influencing surgical healthcare on a large-scale basis.

Course preparations concluded in 2021 with the first course implemented from 25 January 2022 – 25 June 2022.



## World Health Summit event on digital technology in surgical systems (Berlin, Oct 2022)

The Global Surgery Foundation, together with its partners, GHA - German Health Alliance, Health Innovation Exchange and Proximie, co-hosted an event at the World Health Summit in Berlin on October 17th, 2022, entitled **Harnessing digital technology within Surgical Care Systems: An investment case for Health System Strengthening**.

This invite-only event brought to the table representatives of governments, international organizations, private industry, investors, philanthropy, and frontline health care providers, high-lighting the compelling investment opportunity for public-private partnerships in scaling up access to safe and affordable surgical care by means of innovative digital technology.

In a proven example of Makueni County, Kenya, the discussion demonstrated how innovation and technology can support the vital role of surgical care systems for overall health system strengthening and the Universal Health Coverage.



# Events

The GSF hosted a range of well-received strategic events in 2021-22. All event recordings can be viewed [here](#).

## List of online events



1. NSOAP #7 - Adopting pragmatic lens: simple steps for translating NSOAP policy into action ([Learn more](#)) – January 2021
2. Presentation at WACS: Financing Surgical Healthcare ([Learn more](#)) – June 2021
3. Official Launch of Pakistan's Surgical Plan ([Learn more](#)) – July 2021
4. Breast Cancer - Improving Outcomes and Access To Treatment For The Most Vulnerable ([Learn more](#)) – October 2021
5. Official Launch of the New Value-based Healthcare (VBHC) Hub ([Learn more](#)) – November 2021
6. Safe laparoscopic cholecystectomy: practices, preparation, and prevention ([Learn more](#)) – December 2021
7. Surgical Training - Is Digital Tech Here To Stay? ([Learn more](#)) – April 2022
8. Pre-Hospital Synergy: Tranexamic Acid And Blood Transfusion In Patients At Risk For Haemorrhage webinar ([Learn more](#)) – September 2022
9. Breast Cancer - Moving From Policy To Practice ([Learn more](#)) – October 2022
10. Cervical Cancer - Strengthening The Surgical Workforce ([Learn more](#)) – November 2022

## List of face-to-face events



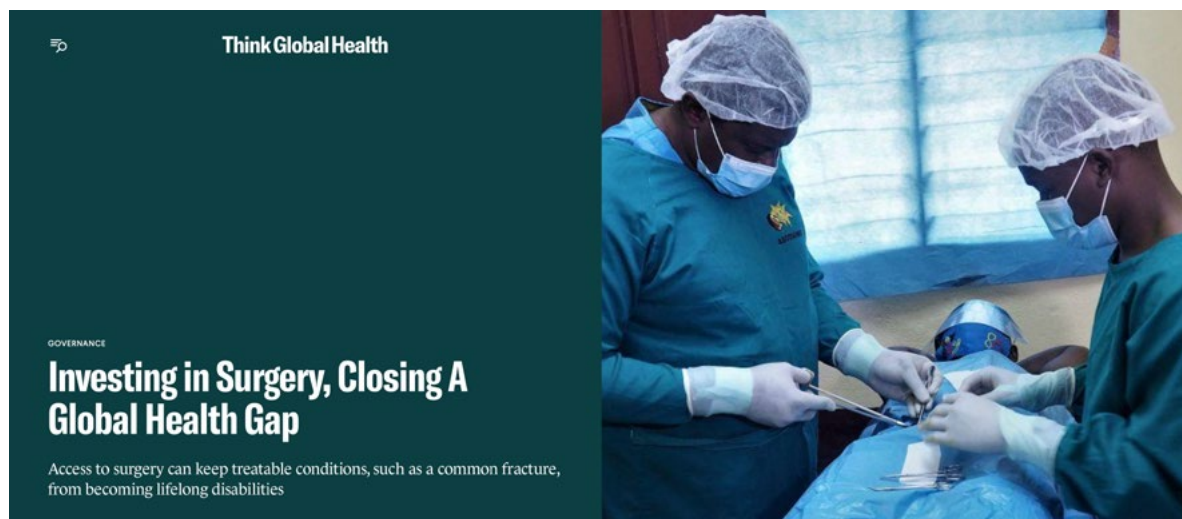
1. Nepal NSOAP Orientation Hybrid Event Series ([Learn more](#)) – July 2021
2. Ambassadors' Luncheon with Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (invite-only) – April 2022
3. Geneva Health Forum workshop on surgical care for children – May 2022
4. 75th World Health Assembly Side Event on Financing Surgical Care ([Learn more](#)) – May 2022
5. GSF Investors' Roundtable (invite-only) – July 2022
6. World Health Summit side event on digital technology in surgical systems ([Learn more](#)) – October 2022
7. Harvard Executive Education Program in High-value Surgical Systems ([Learn more](#)) – November 2022



# Publications

The GSF published and contributed to the publication of papers, reports, manuals, and articles. All publications are available [here](#).

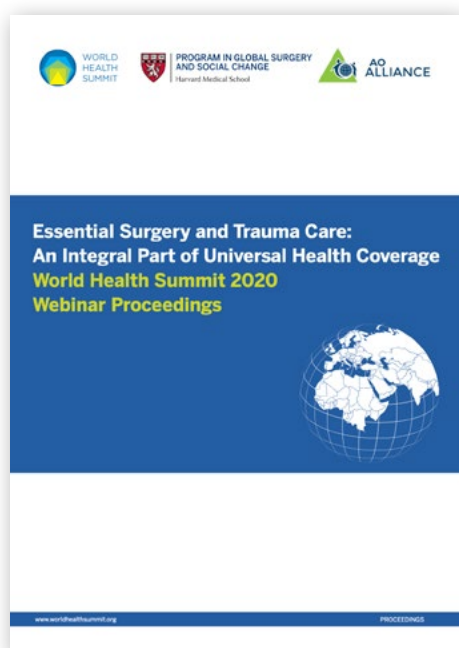
## Editorial publication on Investing in Surgery, Closing A Global Health Gap



Past successes in global health have shown us that remarkable impact is possible. This includes the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Similar commitment and funding is needed to address the

global surgical and NCD burden. The authors of the article are: Dr. Geoff Ibbotson, Executive Director, GSF; Dr. Dominique Vervoort, Advisor, GSF; Prof. Rifat Atun, President of the Foundation Board, GSF.

The full article can be read [here](#).



## Proceedings of the World Health Summit session "Essential Surgical and Trauma Care: An Essential Part of Universal Health Coverage"

From October 25-27, 2020, a group of leaders from politics, science and medicine, the private sector, and civil society convened for the 2020 World Health Summit. The webinar panel discussion supported by the GSF and entitled "Essential Surgical and Trauma Care: An Essential Part of Universal Health Coverage" was held on October 26, 2020. The panel comprised six presentations followed by a discussion. The panel was moderated by Dr John Meara, workshop co-chair and Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School, US, and Dr Geoff Ibbotson, Executive Lead for the GSF.

The proceedings of the event can be downloaded [here](#).

## Overcoming barriers to accessing surgery and rehabilitation in low and middle-income countries: An innovative model of patient navigation in Nepal

Injury and disability are prominent public health concerns, globally and in the country of Nepal. Lack of locally available medical infrastructure, socioeconomic barriers, social marginalization, poor health literacy, and cultural barriers prevent patients from accessing surgical and rehabilitative care. Overcoming these barriers is an insurmountable challenge for the most vulnerable and marginalized, resulting in absence of treatment or even death. Sundar Dhoka Saathi Sewa (SDSS), a non-government organization, provides a patient navigation service which facilitates referrals to tertiary centers from Nepal's most remote areas. This project has

enabled access to treatment for more than 1200 children for conditions leading to long-term disability and/or congenital heart disease.

This paper makes the case that the SDSS model of patient navigation is effective in overcoming the barriers to access surgical care and rehabilitation in Nepal. It argues that the model could be replicated in other LMICs.

The full paper can be downloaded here:  
[link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00268-021-06035-1](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00268-021-06035-1)

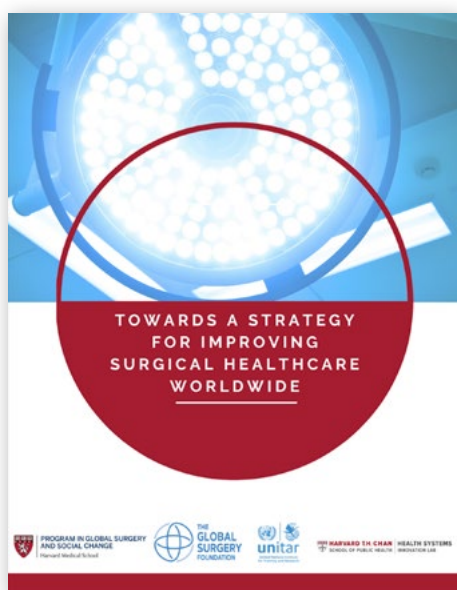


### NSOAP Asia Pacific proceedings

The GSF co-hosted conference entitled “Strategic Planning to Improve Surgical, Obstetric, Anaesthesia, and Trauma Care in the Asia-Pacific Region”. From February to March 2021, a multi-disciplinary group of 101 stakeholders representing Ministries of Health, World Health Organization (WHO), funding agencies, professional societies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector gathered to discuss strategic planning to improve surgical care in the Asia-Pacific Region, which includes 48 countries from the WHO Western Pacific region and the WHO South-East Asia Region. Across three virtual sessions, the conference addressed the current status, barriers, funding strategies, and partnerships towards improving surgical, obstetric, anaesthesia, and trauma care.

The event proceedings can be downloaded [here](#).

## Towards a Strategy for Improving Surgical Healthcare Worldwide



The report, **Towards a Strategy for Improving Surgical Healthcare Worldwide**, was developed under the guidance of Dr Geoff Ibbotson, Executive Director of the Global Surgery Foundation and Senior Health Advisor at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

The ideas, insights and frameworks in the report are drawn from several discussions convened for the Geneva Health Forum 2020 with distinguished clinicians and leaders in surgery, global health and health systems, combined with earlier research conducted by the Program in Global Surgery and Social Change at Harvard Medical School.

The report was published jointly by the Program in Global Surgery and Social Change and Health Systems Innovation Lab at Harvard University and the Global Surgery Foundation.

The report can be downloaded [here](#).

## Spanish Translation of the NSOAP Manual (in collaboration with Harvard PGSSC and UNITAR)



The NSOAP Manual (English) was officially launched on September 28, 2020 by UNITAR, Harvard PGSSC, and the Global Surgery Foundation.

Now, the Spanish version of the NSOAP Manual is available for those who are looking to use this valuable resource. The manual has been translated into Spanish to make it more accessible to a wider audience. This is particularly useful for organizations and governments in Spanish-speaking countries, as it will allow them to easily access the information and resources they need to improve their surgical planning efforts.

The NSOAP Manual (Spanish) can be downloaded [here](#).

# Special invited presentations

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## Presentation on Financing Surgical Healthcare at the Annual Scientific Conference of the West African College of Surgeons

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GSF representatives presented on "Financing Surgical Healthcare" at the Annual Scientific Conference of the West African College of Surgeons (WACS) on behalf of the Global Surgery Foundation.

The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

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## Presentation at the 2021 Trauma Care International Conference (ALTC)

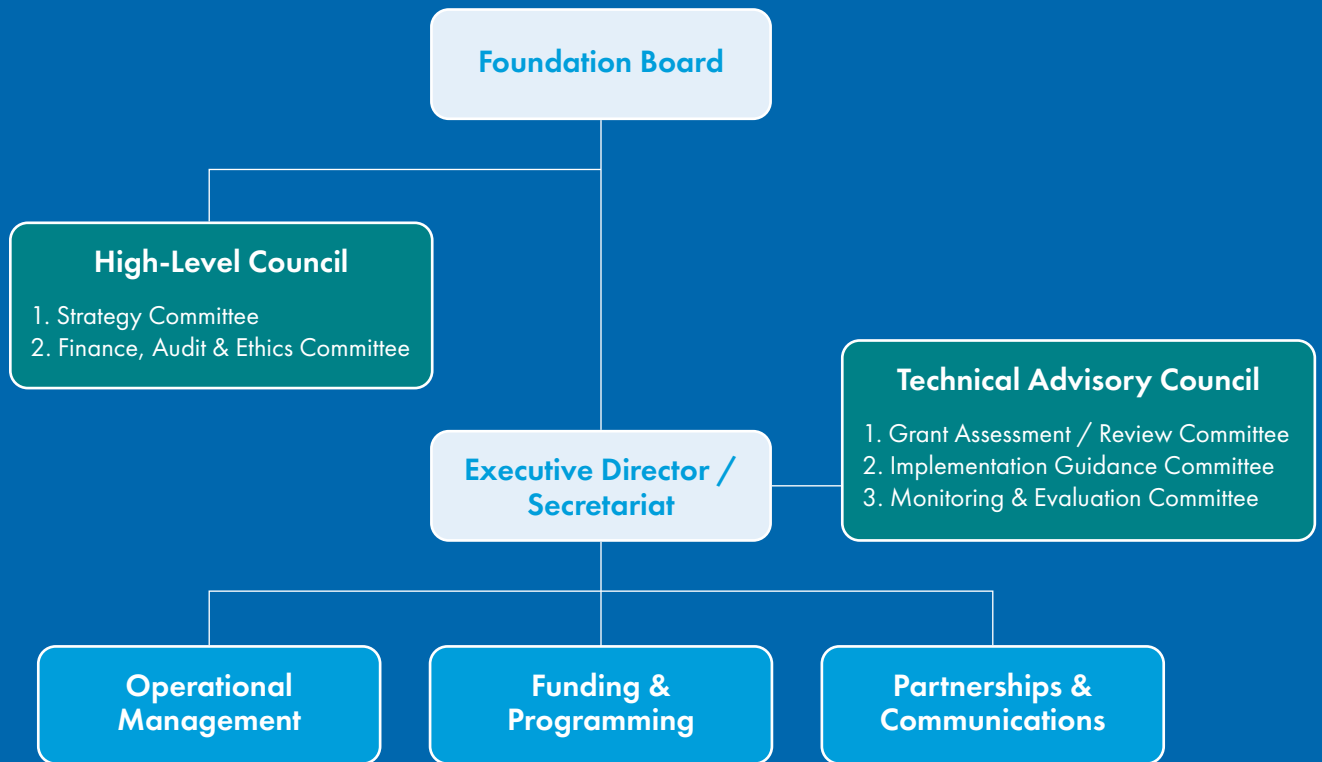
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The GSF was invited to give a keynote address on Trauma Care at the 2021 All Levels Trauma Care Conference (ALTC) hosted by the Saudi Arabia Academy of Sciences in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The conference focused on trauma systems and trauma quality, encompassing trauma at all levels, especially in low- and mid-income countries, learning from the experience of countries that have been conducting this work for many years and are pioneers in the field.



# Governance and organisational growth

## Registration of the GSF as a Foundation in Switzerland



In October 2021, after two successful years of incubation as a project in UNITAR, the GSF registered as a non-profit foundation pursuant to articles 80 and seq. of the Swiss Civil Code. A new governance structure has been carefully developed under the guidance of Prof. Rifat Atun and confirmed by the GSF Leadership Team.

It includes the Foundation Board, the High-level Council (HLC), and the Technical Advisory Council (TAC) – to ensure the highest level of transparency, accountability, and high-level engagement opportunities.

More information about the GSF governance can be found at [www.globalsurgeryfoundation.org/governance](http://www.globalsurgeryfoundation.org/governance)

The GSF appointed its Board members: Prof. Rifat Atun (President of the Board), Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and Mr. John Cross



Prof. Rifat Atun



Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka



Mr. John Cross

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## Initiated transition plan for the new governance structure

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The plan for the transition into the new GSF governance was finalised and execution started in 2021. To ensure transparent and equitable transition into the new governance reflecting the needs of frontline stakeholders, the members of the former GSF leadership team were appointed as the members of the transition working group.

This group oversaw the establishment of the transitional HLC and TAC which have the primary task of developing and implementing their representative constituencies and working subcommittees.

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## Expansion of the Secretariat & Advisory team

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The GSF Secretariat team has experienced significant growth over the past two years, expanding in size to meet the organization's evolving activities. The team grew by several new members, including experts in project management, global health, diplomacy, and training. These new additions bring valuable skills and perspectives to the team, enhancing its capacity to

support GSF's mission. In addition to the Secretariat members, there were also several additions to the GSF advisors who volunteer their time to supporting the growth and activities of the GSF. We are very thankful for all the support from our friends and partners.

Meet the team [here](#).

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## Signed strategic partnership agreement with UNITAR

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The GSF signed a high-level strategic partnership agreement with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), thereby continuing the close collaboration with the UN agency. The GSF is grateful to UNITAR, which helped develop the GSF concept further as a project initiative in the Division for People and Social Inclusion.

Both organisations are currently collaborating on several joint capacity-building initiatives.

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## Secured office space at Campus Biotech at the heart of international diplomacy in Geneva, Switzerland

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The GSF secured a new office space for its Headquarters at Campus Biotech in Geneva, which provides an innovative and collaborative environment for the organization to operate in. The space is located in a state-of-the-art research facility that brings together leading researchers, entrepreneurs, and organizations from various fields, creating a dynamic and interdisciplinary environment.

The location allows the GSF to have a physical presence in the heart of global decision-making, providing opportunities to advocate for the organization's mission at the highest levels of policymaking. The GSF benefits from its close proximity to international organizations such as the UN, and access to over 180 member states.

## Concept development and beta-testing of SURGfund

As a concrete follow-up from the 75<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA), the GSF has developed SURGfund as the integrated, specialized financial mechanism for the GSF. It is designed to draw on existing institutional capacities of the GSF, leveraging its established access to the world's leading technical partners, the United Nations and its Member States, as well as private partners.

In 2022, the GSF worked with leading experts to develop the concept for SURGfund and to beta-test its functionality with selected projects. The official announcement of SURGfund took place at the 76<sup>th</sup> WHA in May 2023.

More information is available [here](#).



## Appointed Ms Shudufhadzo Musida, Miss South Africa 2020, as first GSF Goodwill Ambassador



Ms Shudufhadzo Musida pictured together with Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, who was appointed as GSF Board Member in 2022.

Already working alongside various global initiatives such as Global Citizen, United Nations-Women Forum, and important causes within Africa, Ms. Musida now lends her voice to the Global Surgery Foundation.

In her role as Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Musida will use various global platforms to help raise awareness for maternal health and paediatric surgery. Drawing on her advocacy experience on the African continent, she hopes to expand awareness and mobilise support to increase access to surgery within Africa.

Learn more [here](#).



## Launched the Academic Elective Rotation Programme and planned significant expansion in 2023

In 2022, the GSF launched the Academic Elective Rotation Programme to offer excellent young professionals valuable first-hand experience to develop their understanding of global surgery within an international non-governmental organizational context, while tapping into their knowledge, ideas and expertise.

The programme aims to shape awareness among young professionals about global surgery, provide opportunity to young professionals to contribute to

a growing global organisation, expand networking opportunities and working relationships with partner institutions and tap into the creativity and knowledge of young professionals to further organizational success.

More information about the programme is available [here](#).

## Strategic priority for 2023-24: Establishment of the catalytic fund for surgical care systems – SURGfund



A clear outcome from GSF's WHA75 side event was the unified call for a global financing mechanism to enable consistent and substantial funding for strengthening surgical systems. To answer that call and leveraging the strong momentum, the GSF has established a catalytic funding mechanism designed to support implementation and scale up of surgical care systems in low- and middle-income countries.

The fund represents a new paradigm in global health financing with a bottom-up approach, bringing decision making to frontline stakeholders. In addition to providing critical financial support, it empowers frontline stakeholders through facilitating access to the GSF's established access to the world's leading technical partners, the United Nations, and its Member States.

The strong GSF governance provides equitable and transparent oversight, ensuring that the new fund operates according to highest international financial and auditing standards, overseen by the Swiss regulatory authorities. The fund commenced a beta-test of its financing mechanisms and processes in 2022 and is due to be officially announced at WHA76 in May 2023.

Learn more about SURGfund [here](#).



# Partnerships

# Our partnerships

Over the course of 2021-22, we continuously built new and strengthened existing partnerships. We are grateful to the strong support by our founding members, donors, and partners towards the mission of the GSF.

We are grateful for the strong support by our Founding Organizational Partners



We are grateful to UNITAR for helping develop the GSF concept



## Meet our partners!



Start-up Funding



Incubation Funding



Project Funding





THE  
**GLOBAL  
SURGERY**  
FOUNDATION



PROGRAM IN GLOBAL SURGERY  
AND SOCIAL CHANGE  
Harvard Medical School



**unitar**  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

# The Global Surgery Foundation

Surgery for all who need it, wherever they are

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