



Facts & Figures

Operation Smile Statistics

- Operation Smile was founded in 1982 and since then has given over 130,000 new smiles to children and young adults. That's 54839 smiles in Asia, 10573 smiles in Africa, 7921 Smiles in Europe, 28290 smiles in South America & 28009 in North America
- Operation Smile has given 46,454 children new smiles in the past 5 years
- Operation Smile operates in 51 countries and we co-ordinate in excess of 100 medical projects in 42 countries
- Operation Smiles surgery is performed by over 5,000 medical volunteers who donate their time for free
- It costs as little as £150 and just 45 minutes to perform a simple cleft lip repair.

Cleft Statistics

- Clefts are the 3rd most common birth defect worldwide.
- It is estimated that a baby is born every 2½ minutes with a cleft
- 70% of all cleft patients also have a cleft palate
- 75% of cleft cases in the developing world go untreated
- The rate of incidence in the developing world is 1:500
- We estimate that 250,000 babies are born each year in the countries that we work in alone
- In 60% of children born with a cleft, there is no obvious family history of this condition.
- If one child in a family is born with a cleft, the risk increases by 2 to 4 percent that future children in the family will suffer from the same defect
- Cleft lip and/or palate occurs in approximately 1 per 500-700 births, the ratio varying considerably across geographic areas or ethnic groupings