



About ReSurge International



ReSurge at a Glance

ReSurge International (formerly Interplast) provides free reconstructive surgeries for the poor and builds year-round medical access in underserved areas. It restores the dreams of those with deformities and injuries, and impacts the world by renewing the health of thousands of children and adults each year so they can go to school, provide for their families and contribute to society.

The first organization of its kind, ReSurge International has renewed the health and dreams of children and adults with deformities and injuries through reconstructive surgery since 1969.

Increasing Access to Care

Millions of poor children around the world have no access to basic medical care, let alone the reconstructive plastic surgery they need to lead normal, productive lives. Children with congenital deformities, like cleft lips or palates, are often ostracized from their communities and denied an education simply because they look or speak differently. Burn and other accident victims also endure a lifetime of suffering and disability because they have no access to the surgeries that would give them back the freedom to use their hands or to move their limbs.

ReSurge International builds sustainable, surgical capacity where it previously did not exist by training, supporting and empowering developing world doctors. Now, in 11 surgical outreach programs in nine countries, impoverished patients receive the surgical care they need year-round. ReSurge also sends volunteer visiting educators and volunteer surgical teams, performing additional surgeries and more importantly, educating and empowering local surgeons so that they can perform surgeries on their own year-round and for generations to come.

Decreasing Poverty

Few realize that disabled people are the world's largest minority, and 80 percent live in developing countries. Reconstructive surgery restores bodies so that our patients can rejoin their communities after being shunned for their disfigurements and disabilities. It can make the difference of a lifetime, often with just



The sad and startling fact is that fewer than 10 percent of disabled children in the developing world attend school.



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a few hours of surgery. The result is permanent, immediate and dramatic. The lives of children with deformities improve, and as they do, so do the lives of their parents, who also were spurned because of the deformities of their children or forced not to work because someone had to stay home to care for their disfigured child. Men and women who were disabled because of tragic burns and other accidents are given a second chance through surgery and with it, the ability to work and support their families again. The impact continues to ripple through their communities and, indeed, through their countries, as more and more citizens are able to contribute to society.

Economic Impact

By providing nearly 5,000 surgeries each year, ReSurge International reduces suffering and restores productivity and hope; moreover, approximately 9 million sick days are not taken because patients are now able to go to school or to work. This in turn helps the developing countries where we work recover more than \$75 million in lost wages over the lifetimes of those patients who will now be able to work.

History and Stanford Roots

The first organization of its kind, ReSurge has renewed the health and dreams of children and adults with deformities and injuries since 1969. In the 1960s, plastic surgery was still evolving. For the first time ever, it was believed that plastic surgery could rehabilitate and reintegrate those who were outcasts because of deformities and disabilities. One man, Dr. Donald Laub of Stanford University, pioneered the idea that reconstructive plastic surgery could renew lives and restore hope. With that vision, Interplast (now ReSurge International) was born. Thousands of volunteers traveled overseas to help children. By 1979, 4,000 surgeries had been provided. Medical volunteers transformed lives by dedicating their time to ReSurge, providing surgeries and training local doctors so that they could perform the surgeries on their own.

ReSurge International Today

As the developing world changed with the Internet and better infrastructure, ReSurge forged a bold new course, establishing permanent programs in 1999 where trusted local surgeons provide year-round care. By building surgical capacity and supporting local surgeons, twice as many patients are now receiving care annually. Now 80 percent of our surgeries are performed by developing world surgeons with ReSurge oversight, training and support; it is our most efficient and cost-effective way to provide life-changing surgery. ReSurge also continually improves the quality of health care through education programs and volunteer team trips. Together with your help, we have provided nearly 90,000 surgeries and look forward to ushering in our next 40 years, pioneering the way for generations to come.

Top photo by Phil Borges. Middle and bottom photos by John Urban.



ReSurge is committed to transforming as many lives as possible, allocating nearly 84 percent of its budget to medical programs. Its programs depend entirely on volunteerism and philanthropy from individuals, foundations and corporations. The organization's work is humanitarian in nature; no political or religious affiliations are maintained, and no financial support is accepted from government agencies.

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