

# ReSurge International in Nepal



## Nepal

- **ReSurge surgeries performed annually in Nepal: 2,000**
- **Years working in Nepal: 23**
- **Population: 28.81 million**
- **Population living in poverty (below \$1.25 per day): 55 percent**
- **Productive years lost annually due to: HIV/AIDS and malaria, 20,889; fire burns, 84,629**

## Nepal: ReSurge International's Largest Program

Nepal is home to ReSurge International's largest program and the organization's first year-round surgical outreach program. It provides free surgeries, speech therapy and other medical services to thousands of patients annually. By doing so, nearly 1,250 burn and cleft patients are given a new beginning each year. Productivity and hope is restored and approximately 3.1 million sick days are not taken because patients are now able to go to school or to work. This in turn helps Nepal recover \$9.8 million in lost wages over the lifetimes of those patients who will now be able to go to school or work.

Nepal is also home to a new pilot program to address the global health crisis of burns, from prevention to recovery. In Nepal, more people die of fire burns than of HIV/AIDS, malaria and lung cancer combined. Thousands of others are left with disabling injuries. ReSurge International and International Medical Corps are partnering to build and scale-up burn prevention, health care and training services in underserved areas worldwide, beginning with Nepal.

## First Year-round Surgical Outreach Program

After working with ReSurge volunteer medical teams for a decade, Dr. Shankar Man Rai assembled a local team of medical professionals to provide medical services year-round in 1999. Despite the chaos and political conflict of the Maoist rebellion at the time, Dr. Rai and his small band of Nepalese doctors, supported by ReSurge, provided reconstructive surgery to the poorest in their country. They traveled mountain roads through difficult conditions to reach patients in remote regions of Nepal.



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ReSurge International is impacting Nepal by reducing suffering and poverty, and giving patients a second chance for normal, productive lives.

In the first three years, they treated more than 3,000 patients, more than 10 times the number than could have been treated through volunteer direct service trips to that location. This demonstrated that ReSurge could dramatically expand access by directing more resources and support to locally managed programs. With the success of his outreach pilot program, Dr. Rai began meeting with ReSurge partners from other developing countries, sharing his experience and model.

Now, 80 percent of all ReSurge surgeries are performed by developing world surgeons like Dr. Rai through 11 programs in nine countries. By partnering with local doctors, ReSurge has doubled the number of surgeries it performs annually while significantly reducing operating costs.

Surgical outreach programs empower our local colleagues and deliver reconstructive surgical care in medically underserved areas—where it's needed most. ReSurge uses the latest in technological advances to conduct quality reviews and specialized ongoing training for the centers' teams of medical professionals. Forming partnerships with international medical professionals has created a comprehensive model of care that is renewing the health and dreams of 4,000 children and adults with deformities and injuries each year.

### Meet Our Director in Nepal

Dr. Shankar Man Rai, a world-renowned expert at repairing clefts and burn injuries, has provided nearly 18,000 free surgeries for impoverished children. He has also helped thousands of children in rural Nepal heal their speech impediments through the speech therapy camps he founded. He also created the first medical residency program in Nepal's history in the specialty of plastic reconstructive surgery, resulting in a new generation of surgeons to treat the poor of his country.

Shankar was born in rural Nepal, about 100 miles from the nearest major road, to a poor farming family. He was the first in his family to reach his level of education and professionalism. Soon after his general surgery training, he observed ReSurge volunteer doctors performing a cleft lip surgery in Kathmandu and decided that he wanted to do the same. After three years of plastic surgery training in the United States, he returned to Nepal to dedicate his knowledge and skill to helping others.

In 2004, the American Medical Association honored Shankar with its Nathan R. Davis Award in International Medicine and Public Health for his devotion and skill; he was the first doctor from a developing country to receive this prize. In 2005, he received a World of Children award for his remarkable service. In April 2009, His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, honored Dr. Rai with his Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award.

Source: Statistics derived from World Health Organization's Global Burden of Disease Study 2004.



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.

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