

INTRODUCING SMILE TRAIN

Smile Train is the world's largest cleft-focused organisation. When the charity was founded in 1999, they had one simple belief: that no baby born with a cleft should have to grow up without access to care. They couldn't have known then just how far that belief would travel – to more than 75 countries, into the hands of local medical professionals all over the world. Thanks to their sustainable model and the generous support of donors, Smile Train has now helped support more than two million cleft surgeries, at no cost to families and patients.

Many children around the world are living with untreated clefts. Most have difficulties eating, breathing, hearing, and speaking. The impact of cleft surgery and care is dramatic and changes a child's life forever.

What makes Smile Train different is that their work doesn't begin when a visiting medical team arrives, or end when they leave. Smile Train's 'teach a person to fish' model enables life-changing care to be provided 365 days a year; Care in hospitals that families can actually reach, provided by local doctors and nurses and other healthcare professionals, who understand their patients' cultures, and speak their languages.

They make sure that local medical professionals are there throughout a child's journey to provide expert treatment. This can include nutritional treatments before surgery, specialised speech therapy, orthodontics, ear and hearing care, counselling, and more, all accessible close to home. Smile Train hopes that through care and support they can ensure every child with a cleft has the opportunity to belong and thrive.