



Impact Update



Esther, Togo

**Together, we are changing
the world, one smile at a time.**

DR. OTI ARIA: FROM STIGMA TO HOPE



In Nigeria, the critically low surgeon-to-patient ratio means tens of thousands of children suffer needlessly each year from treatable conditions. **For children with clefts, the stigma makes this situation even worse.** Mothers often fear deeply for their child's future. They frequently experience harassment and blame within their communities, leading to isolation and hardship.

Dr. Oti Nimi Aria, a dedicated surgeon at Smile Train partner **Port Harcourt University Teaching Hospital**, has committed her life to helping these mothers and children. At outreach events, she reassures them that everything will be okay.

Dr. Oti's journey to becoming a surgeon was challenging. Balancing medical school with raising young children was no easy feat. Reflecting on those difficult times, she says, "Those periods were very testing. But I look back, and I have no regrets. It's really rewarding."

With support from donors like you, Smile Train has played a vital role in her development through **free training and fellowships** that have enhanced her skills and effectiveness within the cleft care team. **Thanks to your generosity, Dr. Oti and Smile Train partners everywhere are equipped with the training and tools to ensure that patients all over the world receive the high-quality surgeries they need free of charge.**

While having a cleft in Nigeria is still a significant challenge, Dr. Oti and Smile Train are committed to ending the stigma and ensuring that every child with a cleft has access to the timely, safe, and individualized care they deserve. Through our "teach a person to fish" model of investing in local expertise and infrastructure, we are ensuring patients and providers alike have a fair chance to pursue their dreams.

Your support for Smile Train is critical in enabling us to support free, comprehensive cleft care for children in need and vital education for talented healthcare workers like Dr. Oti the world over. **Together, we are changing the world, one smile at a time.**



Scan the QR code for Dr. Oti's full story:

YOUR GIFT, THEIR SMILE

Every **three** minutes, a child is born with a cleft. But thanks to supporters like you, Smile Train is turning this challenge into hope — and a healthier future.

Together, we have supported over **2 million cleft surgeries** since 1999 — more than every other cleft charity combined. At the heart of our success is our sustainable, local model. We have facilitated more than **100,000 training opportunities** for local healthcare professionals, enabling them to provide free, high-quality cleft surgery in **more than 75 countries and vital non-surgical cleft care in 48.**

Every **five** minutes, a Smile Train partner performs a life-changing cleft surgery. This creates a sustainable, global economic impact — estimated at **\$69+ billion** since our founding — by removing the medical and social barriers to education and gainful employment that often confront people with untreated clefts, and enabling them to live their healthiest, most productive lives. **This makes the average return on investment for a Smile Train-sponsored surgery 150x.**

Thank you for helping to give children and their families the opportunity for a healthy life. **Together, we are changing the world, one smile at a time.**



\$69+ BILLION
Economic Impact
of Smile Train's
surgical program



2,000,000+
cleft surgeries for
people of all ages since
our founding in 1999



100,000+
training
opportunities



95+ COUNTRIES
where Smile Train
has sponsored free
cleft treatment



EVERY 3 MINUTES
a child is born
with a cleft



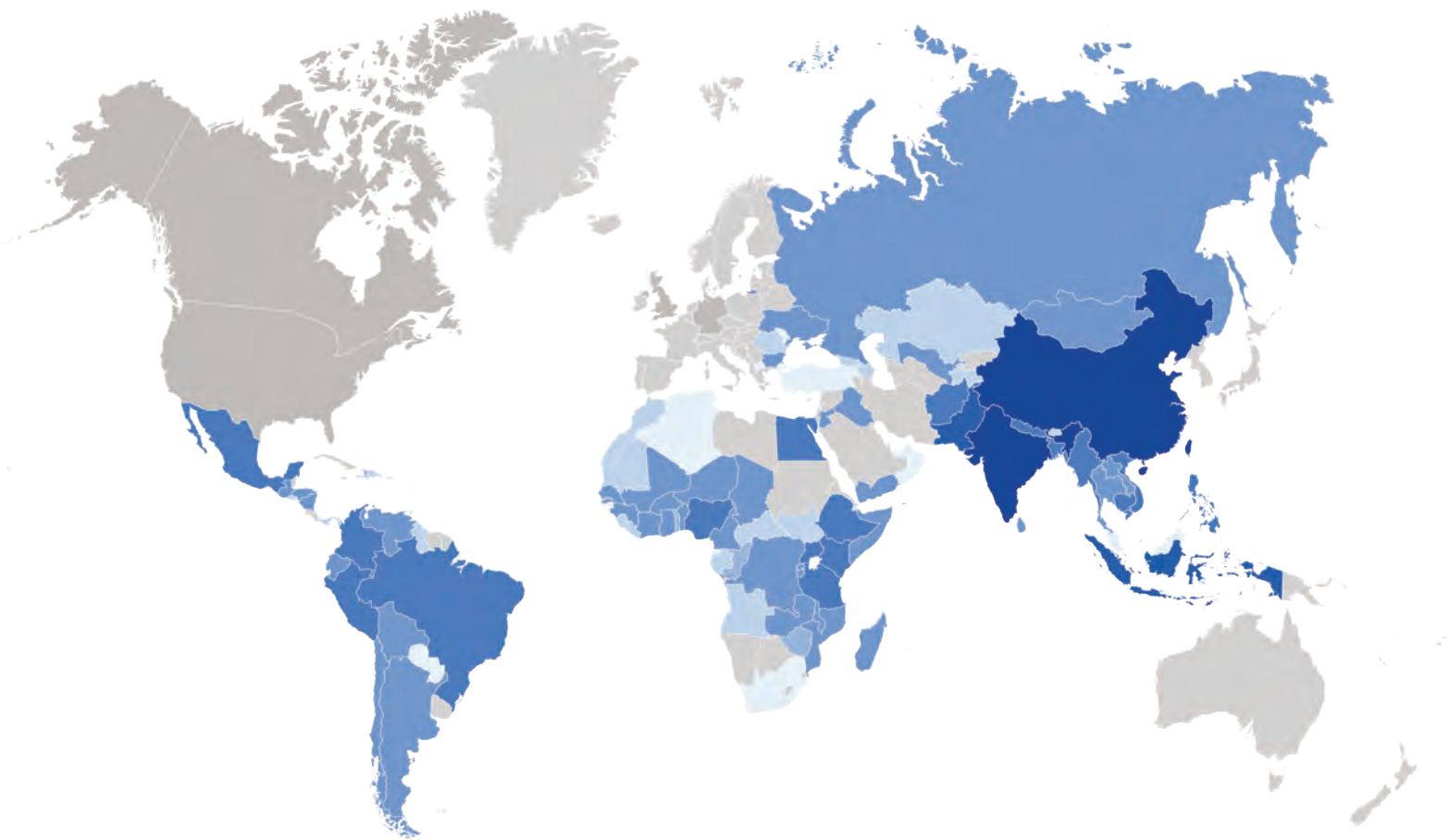
48 COUNTRIES
where Smile Train
supports vital
non-surgical cleft care

TRANSFORMING LIVES WORLDWIDE, ONE SMILE AT A TIME

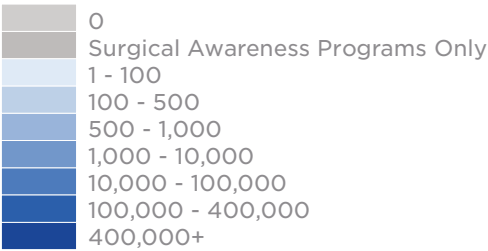
From bustling cities to remote villages, Smile Train’s impact spans more than 75 countries and over **2 million life-changing cleft surgeries** — thanks to your support.

But surgery is just the beginning. We’re meeting children and their families where they are, with growing investments in **speech therapy, orthodontics, nutrition, and psychosocial support** — each year, helping more children speak clearly, eat safely, and smile confidently.

Behind every number is a name, a face, and a future transformed. Your generosity has a ripple effect on families, communities, and economies worldwide. **Because of you, smiles are healing the world.**



Cleft Surgeries Performed



Map as of November 2024
*Smile Train has provided support for cleft organizations in the U.S. and U.K.
Smile Train, Inc. can accept donations worldwide and has fundraising programs in Brazil, Germany, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Philippines, U.A.E., U.K. and U.S.

CLAUDIO'S JOURNEY: A TESTAMENT TO YOUR IMPACT



Claudio's parents did everything they could, but they couldn't afford the medical care he needed for his cleft. Growing up without treatment, Claudio **faced bullying and isolation**. He found solace in a small circle of trusted friends and became a taxi driver in Villa El Salvador, a humble district on the outskirts of Lima.

At 35, Claudio still hadn't received cleft treatment. Despite signing up for every short-term cleft mission, he was always passed over for younger patients. Fortunately, Claudio discovered **Misión Caritas Felices**, a local Smile Train partner.

Thanks to generous donors like you, Claudio finally received the **cleft surgery, dental care, and speech therapy** he had long needed — **all free of charge**.

Inspired by the life-changing support he received, Claudio now pays it forward. He volunteers his taxi services to Misión Caritas Felices, **helping transport patients, families, and essential documents**.

Your support made Claudio's transformation possible. **Together, we can continue to change lives and bring hope to those in need.**

Scan the QR code for Claudio's full story:





Thank you
for your generosity
and commitment to making
a difference.



Smile Train is a leader in efficiency, transparency, and impact. Smile Train is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit recognized by the IRS, and all donations to Smile Train are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

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