

# Transforming Surgical Care to Take on Unmet Needs in Global Surgery

Johnson & Johnson is applying our world-class expertise to advance equitable access to safe and quality surgical care in low-income countries, with a focus on strengthening surgical care systems for people living with long bone fracture and obstetric fistula.



## THE CHALLENGE

Despite ongoing and significant advancements in surgery that have allowed patients to recover faster and live fuller lives, people in low-income countries often do not have the same access to safe and affordable surgical care. In fact, while low-income countries are home to more than a third of the world's population, only six percent of surgeries take place in these countries.<sup>1</sup> This lack of access to essential surgical services can mean that seemingly simple or easily-repaired conditions – such as long bone fractures or obstetric fistulas – can be individually debilitating and economically costly.

Traumatic injury alone causes more death and disability than HIV, malaria and tuberculosis combined and is considered by the World Health Organization (WHO) to be a neglected global epidemic. Despite access in high-income countries, conditions – like long bone fractures and obstetric fistulas – that are treatable with proper surgical care and equipment still cause approximately 30 percent of the global burden of disease.<sup>2</sup>

### The Cost of Traumatic Injury

Beyond the physical and human toll, lack of access to safe and affordable surgery will cost low- and middle-income countries an estimated \$12.3 trillion by 2030 unless action is taken. Despite this, just 0.02% of total development assistance funds from 1990-2015 were devoted to improving access to quality trauma care.<sup>3</sup>

## THE OPPORTUNITY

Johnson & Johnson is working to address global inequity by transforming surgical care for the world's most underserved people and communities. Building on our longstanding legacy in advancing surgical innovation, we are applying our world-class expertise, innovation and capabilities to address two key unmet needs in global surgery: trauma management and maternal care.

The new Global Surgery initiative is working from the lab to the last mile of health delivery to develop and deliver approaches, products and procedures designed specifically for use in resource-limited settings to treat obstetric fistula and long bone fracture. In collaboration with local organizations, the initiative is also leveraging the best-in-class training capabilities of Johnson & Johnson to support local surgeons in implementing new tools and standards of care in resource-limited settings.

By expanding access to reliable trauma care and strengthening maternal care, we can help build a healthier, safer and more just world where everyone, everywhere, can thrive.

## OUR PROGRAMS



**LONG BONE FRACTURE**  
care in Malawi



**OBSTETRIC FISTULA**  
care in Kenya



## SPOTLIGHT ON: OBSTETRIC FISTULA

Obstetric fistula, a serious but preventable childbirth injury, affects between 50,000 and 100,000 women globally each year,<sup>4</sup> but the majority of patients do not have access to the necessary surgery, and an estimated 500,000 women, primarily in Africa and Asia, needlessly suffer from untreated fistula.<sup>5</sup>

Johnson & Johnson is piloting a program in Kenya, where more than 1,000 cases of obstetric fistula are recorded each year, to improve access to the necessary surgical care.<sup>6</sup> We are doing so by developing and providing access to surgical instruments like bladder sounds, fistula scissors and sutures that have been customized to treat women in resource-limited settings, as well as training health workers on the effective use of these technologies.



## SPOTLIGHT ON: LONG BONE FRACTURE

Long bone fractures, a crack or a break in the tibia or another long bone, can result in long-term disability. However, more than 70 percent of patients do not have access to affordable care to help repair these injuries.<sup>7</sup>

Johnson & Johnson is helping improve and advance critical trauma solutions and procedures, starting in Malawi, which has a low ratio of orthopedic healthcare providers to its population. The program is helping to equip and train surgeons with our novel surgical tools and techniques, while strengthening supply chains to ensure sustainable access to care for people in need.

## OUR LEGACY IN SURGICAL INNOVATION

Johnson & Johnson's Global Surgery program builds on the expertise and legacy of the Johnson & Johnson MedTech, which has worked for over a century to revolutionize surgical systems and instruments for a range of medical conditions. From the first mass production of sterile sutures in 1887 to revolutionizing the way doctors perform surgery today with cutting-edge digital technologies, Johnson & Johnson has remained committed to innovating to provide the safest and most effective treatment in operating rooms around the world.



## ABOUT J&J GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Through a dedicated global public health (GPH) organization that combines R&D, global access strategies and programs, and local operations, Johnson & Johnson is putting the world's most vulnerable and underserved at the heart of everything we do—measuring our success in lives improved. As a team of innovators, we are committed to pioneering and sustainably delivering meaningful and transformational products.

Upholding the rich heritage of Johnson & Johnson, we are taking on the toughest challenges, and, ultimately, we hope to do our part to close the gap of inequity and pave the way to a healthier future for the world's most vulnerable and underserved populations.



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