



Interplast®

Making A Difference Together

Rotary
New Zealand & Australia



During the COVID-19 pandemic, Interplast and its volunteers across New Zealand & Australia are still making an amazing difference to patients across the Asia-Pacific, even though closed borders mean that the volunteers can't visit in person.

Interplast is providing virtual training and remote mentoring to surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied health professionals in 24 developing nations.

With the support of Interplast and Rotary, patients like Gladi continue to receive desperately needed help.

Gladi's Story

When these photos were taken, Gladi was just 7 years old.

She and her family live in a remote village in Laos.

In the first photo, Gladi is pictured sitting in the waiting room at the hospital where the Interplast team was visiting.

Gladi had a very large growth across her left rib cage, which was so big it prevented her from having full use of her left arm. She couldn't hold her arm in its natural position - her day-to-day life would have been difficult, to say the least.

Fortunately, the tumor was benign, and the Interplast team was able to remove it completely. Sadly, benign tumors in children and adults are often the reason for Interplast surgeries in developing nations.

In the second photo, Gladi is pictured with her family and 2 members of her Interplast surgical team, after her successful operation. The tumor was over 23cm in length.

What a difference!

Now Gladi is free from the disfigurement and discomfort of the tumor, and can have a normal childhood.

Both Gladi and her family can live their lives free from stigma and ostracism, and have the opportunity to participate fully in their village community.

During the pandemic, with Rotary's support, Interplast continues to help patients like Gladi. Thanks to the vocational training delivered by Interplast's volunteers, patients of the future will also receive life-changing care.



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www.interplast.org.nz

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