

Desperately needed medical care in many Asia Pacific nations is financed by out-of-pocket payments made by the patient or their family. There is no Medicare system to subsidise, or pay for free, medical services. In some instances, a household will fall into poverty because there is no choice but to use all available resources to pay for medical expenses. In many other cases, desperately needed medical care simply isn't received as there is no way to pay for it.

Since 2016, Interplast has supported our partners in Nepal with funding to provide complex microsurgery for patients who are unable to afford this life-changing care. Since then, local surgeons have been able to provide essential surgeries for 55 people.

Just as importantly, this program also allows surgeons in Nepal to maintain their skills in microsurgery.

Through a comprehensive program of mentoring and remote contact provided by Interplast's volunteer surgeons, Nepal-based surgeons are able to obtain support, case-planning assistance and consultations when confronted with a complex case.

The Kirtipur Hospital, 5 km from Kathmandu, is one of the hospitals Interplast has partnered with.

In January 2021, 62 year-old husband and father Dil was admitted to Kirtipur Hospital. Several weeks earlier he had been badly injured in a road traffic accident, and had sustained breaks to both the Tibia and Fibula bones in his right lower leg.



Dil recovering after his surgery

Dil had received surgery to fix the breaks, which involved having plates screwed onto the bones.

But the surgeon at that time had not been able to do a skin graft to cover the extensive wound.

For 2 weeks Dil had to live without skin and tissue covering approximately a third of his right lower leg.

The bones and the metal plates remained exposed.

At Kirtipur Hospital, Dil was able to have a large section of skin, tissue and nerves known as a free flap, harvested from another part of his body, and grafted onto his shin to cover his wound. The Nepalese doctor who performed this operation with the remote help of his Interplast colleagues reported that "the right leg is salvaged". A very under-stated comment! The operation resulted in Dil's life significantly changing for the better, because his leg would not be amputated.

Rotary partners have been integral in providing funding for this Nepalese program. Even in the midst of a pandemic, Interplast and Rotary together can still help to Repair Bodies & Rebuild Lives.

Thank you to every Rotarian who supports Interplast. You really do make a difference.